

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

CORRECTED

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL
SWEARING IN CEREMONY
JANUARY 5, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
JOHN WRIGHT
RAY GRAHAM
BRETT SANDERS
JIMMY DAVIS
CINDY WILSON

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT

1 TOMMY DUNN: At this time I'd
2 like to call the county council meeting of January 5th
3 to order. The first part will be our oath of office.
4 I'd like to welcome each and every one of you here
5 today. Thank y'all for coming.
6 First of all what we're going to do is since we only
7 have one council member here today that's newly elected,
8 we're going to let him go first and go by himself. Mr.
9 Wright, if you will, you can step down front and ask
10 your wife or whoever is going to hold your bible.
11 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: Left hand on it and
12 right hand up. Just repeat after me.
13 I do solemnly swear ...
14 JOHN WRIGHT: I do solemnly swear
15 ...
16 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: That I am duly
17 qualified ...
18 JOHN WRIGHT: That I am duly
19 qualified ...
20 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: According to the
21 Constitution ...
22 JOHN WRIGHT: According to the
23 Constitution ...
24 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: Of this state ...
25 JOHN WRIGHT: Of this state ...
26 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: To exercise the
27 duties ...
28 JOHN WRIGHT: To exercise the
29 duties ...
30 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: Of the office to
31 which ...
32 JOHN WRIGHT: Of the office to
33 which ...
34 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: I have been elected
35 ...
36 JOHN WRIGHT: I have been elected
37 ...
38 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: And that I will ...
39 JOHN WRIGHT: And that I will ...
40 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: To the best of my
41 ability ...
42 JOHN WRIGHT: To the best of my
43 ability ...
44 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: Discharge the duties
45 thereof ...
46 JOHN WRIGHT: Discharge the duties
47 thereof ...
48 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: And preserve and
49 protect ...
50 JOHN WRIGHT: And preserve and

1 protect ...
2 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: And defend the
3 Constitution ...
4 JOHN WRIGHT: And defend the
5 Constitution ...
6 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: Of this state ...
7 JOHN WRIGHT: Of this state ...
8 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: And the United
9 States ...
10 JOHN WRIGHT: And the United
11 States ...
12 REV. RILEY CUMMINGS: So help me God.
13 JOHN WRIGHT: So help me God.
14 Thank you.
15 **APPLAUSE**
16 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: Put your left hand
17 on the bible. Raise your right hand. Repeat after me.
18 I do solemnly swear ...
19 COUNCIL: I do solemnly swear
20 ...
21 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: That I am duly
22 qualified ...
23 COUNCIL: That I am duly
24 qualified ...
25 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: According to the
26 Constitution ...
27 COUNCIL: According to the
28 Constitution ...
29 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: Of this state ...
30 COUNCIL: Of this state ...
31 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: To exercise the
32 duties ...
33 COUNCIL: To exercise the
34 duties ...
35 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: Of the office to
36 which ...
37 COUNCIL: Of the office to
38 which ...
39 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: I have been elected
40 ...
41 COUNCIL: I have been elected
42 ...
43 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: And that I will ...
44 COUNCIL: And that I will ...
45 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: To the best of my
46 ability ...
47 COUNCIL: To the best of my
48 ability ...
49 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: Discharge the duties
50 thereof ...

1 COUNCIL: Discharge the duties
2 thereof ...
3 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: And preserve,
4 protect ...
5 COUNCIL: And preserve,
6 protect ...
7 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: And defend the
8 Constitution ...
9 COUNCIL: And defend the
10 Constitution ...
11 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: Of this state ...
12 COUNCIL: Of this state ...
13 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: And the United
14 States ...
15 COUNCIL: And the United
16 States ...
17 MAJOR WILLIAM VAUGHN: So help me God.
18 COUNCIL: So help me God.
19 **APPLAUSE**
20 TOMMY DUNN: We're going to
21 adjourn. We'll start back with the regular meeting in
22 just a second.
23 **END OF SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

1 TOMMY DUNN: At this time I'd
2 like to call the regular county council meeting of
3 January the 5th to order.

4 The first order of business, I'd like to thank Major
5 Vaughn what he's doing in the building for helping us
6 with that. And Mr. Wright's pastor, too, and all the
7 family members and all for coming, and staff.

8 At this time we'll have the invocation and pledge of
9 allegiance by Councilman Sanders. If we'll all please
10 rise.

11 **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY BRETT SANDERS**

12 TOMMY DUNN: At this time, item
13 number 3 on the agenda, election of Chairman. And I
14 open the floor for nominations.

15 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman?

16 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

17 CINDY WILSON: May I? To honor the
18 great meetings that we've conducted this year with your
19 guidance and direction and the efficiency with which you
20 run our meetings and the fairness with which you've held
21 for our citizens and your fellow council members, may I
22 nominate you to continue as our chairman?

23 TOMMY DUNN: I appreciate that.

24 BRETT SANDERS: I second it.

25 TOMMY DUNN: And we have a second
26 by Mr. Sanders. Now, any other nominations? Any at
27 all? Seeing and hearing none, all in favor of the
28 motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the
29 motion carries unanimously.

30 At this time we'll be moving on to item number 4,
31 election of vice chairman.

32 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.

33 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

34 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair, at this
35 time, I would like to nominate Councilman Brett Sanders
36 as vice chair.

37 CINDY WILSON: Second.

38 TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion for
39 Mr. Sanders for vice chair. Do we have a second?

40 CINDY WILSON: Second.

41 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson.

42 Anyone else? Any more nominations? Seeing and hearing
43 none, all in favor of the motion show of hands.
44 Opposed. Show the motion carries unanimously.

45 Before we get on to regular business, I'd just like
46 to first of all welcome Mr. Wright on board. Look
47 forward to working with him. It's exciting at the time.
48 Part of Anderson County. I know he'll do his district
49 and all of Anderson County a great job.

50 I also want to thank, and I'll touch on this a

1 little bit later on, but I want to thank my fellow
2 council members for showing the confidence in me. And I
3 appreciate it. I do not take this lightly.

4 So we'll now be moving on to item number 5.
5 appreciation to council. Mr. Merriweather. Mr.
6 Merriweather, if you would, for the record just state
7 your name and address the chair, please.

8 MATTHEW MERRIWEATHER: Matthew
9 Merriweather.

10 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir.

11 MATTHEW MERRIWEATHER: On behalf of the
12 Anchored in His Grace Ministry, I just want to thank the
13 council, Mr. Rusty Burns and the Anderson County Council
14 and the whole Anderson County for their support in our
15 first annual outreach on Christmas Day. We were able to
16 feed hundreds of people at the Farmers Market in the
17 community. And if it had not been for the support of
18 the county and the council members supporting us, we
19 would not have been able to do that. And we had -- and
20 I would like to thank the Tiaras to Crown mentor and the
21 organization Delivering Word Empowerment Center. We all
22 pulled this off in order to feed hungry people on a cold
23 day.

24 And we want to thank Anderson County for providing
25 heaters for us there for that time that we was there.
26 We was there from -- the feeding started at twelve,
27 around twelve o'clock and we ended about three. And it
28 was just a blessing in order for us to be able to serve
29 people that didn't have food to eat for that Christmas
30 Day. And with your kindness and generosity, we was able
31 to do what we started out to do and we just thank you
32 all. And we just pray and hope that God will continue
33 to bless you in your endeavors. Thank you.

34 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Merriweather,
35 you're the one that deserves the thanks. We appreciate
36 you. People like you is what I think keeps Anderson
37 County being blessed and makes Anderson County very
38 special. You and your family and all the people that
39 helped you put this together -- we were a very small
40 part -- and we really appreciate what you done and I
41 hope y'all have a successful endeavor and continue to
42 carry this on. I heard it was a success and I
43 appreciate it. Please tell all your people that helped
44 out on this thing, Anderson County really does
45 appreciate it.

46 Does anyone else have anything to say or add? Thank
47 you, Mr. Merriweather. We appreciate it. Job well
48 done.

49 MATTHEW MERRIWEATHER: Yes, sir.

50 TOMMY DUNN: At this time we'll

1 go on to item number 6, be citizens comments. When Mr.
2 Harmon calls your name, please, again, for the record,
3 state your name and district. You've got three minutes.
4 Address the chair, please. Mr. Harmon.

5 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, we
6 have one citizen signed up. Elizabeth Fant.

7 TOMMY DUNN: And also matters on
8 agenda items only on this first go round.

9 ELIZABETH FANT: Thank you.
10 Elizabeth Fant, District 3. Speaking on the ordinance
11 that's being passed today and also the election of
12 officers and meetings.

13 We're going through tough times. I understand
14 probably that you want to have some leadership that's
15 had some experience. That would be Mr. Dunn and Mr.
16 Sanders again as assistant county council chairman. And
17 that's where I'm good. But in the future, I think you
18 all need to propose an ordinance that no person on
19 county council can be chairman or assistant chairman
20 more than two years in a row. We need to pass this
21 around. It's not meant for somebody to have it for six
22 or seven years. Likewise, it's not meant in politics to
23 have people who have been on there for a long time.
24 Also, regarding the length of time people are on county
25 council, we have some people that have been on it for
26 ten years and more. And we need to get some fresh
27 insight, so we don't need the same people. Of course,
28 it's up to whoever gets nominated and so forth.

29 The second thing is I know that the meetings have
30 been sparse. I think we've had maybe seven meetings
31 since March for county council. And I understand to do
32 with the pandemic. And we certainly don't want anybody
33 to come if they are sick. But there have been several
34 members on council that have not attended regularly.
35 One who's no longer here, he was running for the senate
36 and he got kind of lazy about coming to meetings. And
37 another one, Ms. Floyd, who has had some issues. And I
38 don't know how y'all are going to resolve that. But we
39 need to have -- each person out here who is a citizen
40 needs to have their county council person represent
41 them. You can't do that if you're not here and if you
42 can't come to meetings or whatever the situation is. So
43 that's my two cents.

44 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else, Mr.
45 Harmon?

46 LEON HARMON: No one else is
47 signed up, Mr. Chairman.

48 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

49 I meant to make this announcement at the first of
50 the meeting. Ms. Floyd is still feeling under the

1 weather and will not be here today. Let's keep her and
2 her family in our thoughts and prayers as we move
3 forward.

4 At this time we're going to go to item number 10(a),
5 2021-001, AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO DECLARE A STATE OF
6 EMERGENCY FOR ANDERSON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA DUE TO THE
7 CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC; PROCEDURES FOR
8 OPERATION OF ANDERSON COUNTY DURING THE EMERGENCY; AND
9 OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

10 Mr. Harmon, do you want to highlight this a little
11 bit? Or Mr. Burns, either one?

12 RUSTY BURNS: Mr. Chairman,
13 basically what this is a resolution to do that will
14 limit the number of meetings that Anderson County
15 authorizes for its boards and commissions in order to
16 try not to create a super spread or event. County
17 council will still continue to function and our next
18 meeting will go off as planned.

19 Our last Planning Commission for some time will be
20 this Thursday. And then we will try to hold all of
21 these things up. That's primarily the sole intent of
22 this ordinance. Plus also, because of the increase in
23 COVID cases in Anderson County, we may be looking to do
24 other things. This does not contain a mask ordinance.
25 It's basically what I just outlined.

26 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Burns, in our
27 conversation yesterday, I know we're having some
28 outbreaks and some concerns at the Annex. Is it still
29 open or is it closed? Do we need to make an
30 announcement today?

31 RUSTY BURNS: It is open at this
32 time, Mr. Dunn, but that is a very precarious situation,
33 as are several other things in Anderson County.
34 Anderson County has not shut down one day due to COVID,
35 but we may be doing some different ways of operating,
36 but not lose any momentum or speed.

37 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Do we
38 have a motion to move this forward?

39 JIMMY DAVIS: So moved.

40 RAY GRAHAM: Second.

41 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Davis;
42 second by Mr. Graham. Now discussion. Go ahead, Mr.
43 Graham.

44 RAY GRAHAM: Let me say one thing
45 about this. I received several calls about this being
46 on the agenda. And I mean, just something as far as the
47 citizens goes, it's not relinquishing power. It's not
48 giving complete power to our staff. It's literally
49 trying to maintain a safe environment and create an
50 atmosphere where we can basically run more efficient.

1 And I mean in general that's exactly what that is. I
2 think there's some misunderstanding on the purpose of
3 this. But I do support it.

4 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham, I
5 appreciate those comments. I think you're exactly
6 right. There have been some misunderstandings on
7 several things. Appreciate that. Ms. Wilson.

8 CINDY WILSON: To repeat basically
9 what Mr. Graham pointed out, I had some contacts also
10 that thought we were going to go into a lock down and
11 that sort of thing. I hope we've been able to dispel
12 those concerns. This is not what this emergency
13 ordinance is at all. We'll continue to operate. And
14 we're certainly not going to dictate to people how they
15 conduct themselves. Thank you.

16 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone
17 else? Hearing and seeing none, all in favor of the
18 motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the
19 motion carries unanimously.

20 There are no number 11s.

21 Number 12 -- moving on to item number 12 now, fair
22 proposal. Mr. Burns.

23 RUSTY BURNS: Mr. Chairman, we
24 have placed out a request for proposals for somebody to
25 do the Anderson County Fair. We broadcast this widely.
26 We received one proposal from Drew. Those are the
27 people who have done the rides here every year that
28 we've had a fair. And they have placed a proposal in to
29 pay the county a hundred thousand dollars, which is
30 fifty thousand dollars more than our previous contract,
31 plus more detail on who pays for any ancillary expenses
32 like water, gas, electricity and everything, that's
33 covered in here. And again, this is the only one we
34 received. It was broadcast widely. These people have a
35 great reputation. And request council to consider this
36 proposal.

37 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Burns, I want to
38 be clear. If we move forward with this, we're not
39 setting a date for a fair; right?

40 RUSTY BURNS: No, sir.

41 TOMMY DUNN: And what you're
42 asking for us to do is I guess to move this forward to
43 grant this thing to the Drew family?

44 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, sir.

45 TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Do we have a
46 motion to get this on the floor?

47 BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

48 TOMMY DUNN: Motion by Mr. -- is
49 that Mr. Sanders?

50 BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir.

1 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders. Do we
2 have a second?
3 CINDY WILSON: Second.
4 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson.
5 Now discussion? Ms. Wilson.
6 CINDY WILSON: Just very quickly,
7 shall we have a committee meeting, continuing in the old
8 committees until the next council meeting to take this
9 up to consider and have it on the agenda by the next
10 meeting? Is that what we're looking at?
11 RUSTY BURNS: I think what we
12 would do if council approves this today, we would work
13 with the county attorney to prepare a contract that
14 would have to come back before council.
15 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you.
16 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Mr.
17 Graham.
18 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman. So right now they basically presented an idea
20 to you guys and with what they're willing to pay, and we
21 are basically just moving forward at looking at doing a
22 contract. We're not voting on the contract today?
23 RUSTY BURNS: No. We don't have a
24 contract. We wouldn't prepare a contract until we had
25 council's permission to move ahead.
26 RAY GRAHAM: Okay. At that
27 point, it's the committee, and I know we're at the time
28 of the year where these committees can change. But
29 would the Civic Center Committee be looking at that and
30 bringing back a recommendation or ... I'm sure all you
31 guys have got all our bases covered. I just don't want
32 to ---
33 RUSTY BURNS: It's at the pleasure
34 of council; whatever council wants us to do. We just
35 need permission to move ahead. If you need to send it to
36 a committee, that's fine with us.
37 TOMMY DUNN: We'll bid it out and
38 make sure it goes to a committee and the full council
39 will have a vote on this and say if a contract is
40 presented.
41 RAY GRAHAM: Okay.
42 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?
43 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.
44 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.
45 JIMMY DAVIS: Talking about --
46 repeat that again. Would this go to the PPW Committee
47 or ---
48 TOMMY DUNN: We'll see what --
49 no, this will be probably -- we've got a Civic Center
50 Committee and it will probably be going to that

1 committee since it's up here. We'll get it to the right
2 one. All we're trying to do now is get them to this
3 contract. Once we get a contract, we'll put it to
4 committee.

5 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chair.

7 TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Anyone else?
8 All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed
9 like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

10 Moving on, report from the Public Safety Committee
11 held on Monday, January the 4th. I'll turn it over now
12 to the Public Safety Committee Chairman, Mr. Graham.

13 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 There's actually three things that we need to bring
15 forth in the form of suggestions for us voting to full
16 council support. If it's okay I'll cover those and then
17 we'll go back and get kind of an update on two of these
18 other items.

19 The Public Safety Committee brings forth in the form
20 of a recommendation -- and we done all three of these
21 together and that's the way I'll present it. If we do
22 need to separate we can at that time. But Public Safety
23 brings this in the form of a motion. It was brought up
24 that we hire one full time employee to the QRV Program.
25 Just the savings in part-time help and also overtime
26 help is going to make this more than worth its while.
27 This is an investment we started with the QRV Program
28 and it's just a matter of continuing to build this, so
29 we supported that a hundred percent.

30 We also, on the purchase of two new QRVs. As you
31 know, once we started this program, Stone basically took
32 and literally got vehicles from the sheriff's
33 department, from different departments, and created
34 QRVs. What we need to realize, these QRVs are emergency
35 responding vehicles that are required to go, you know,
36 faster on the roads. So we need to ensure not only the
37 safety of the citizens of the county but also the safety
38 of our employee that's driving them.

39 There's money that will be made available as far as
40 through the QRV that's the funding that's coming back
41 for that program that would purchase these vehicles.
42 And realistically speaking, we're probably talking about
43 July before we would actually receive these vehicles.
44 But we want to go ahead and move forward as far as
45 voting on these and basically go ahead and order, and
46 that way we'll cut out some of that downtime waiting on
47 them. Again, that comes forth in the form of a motion,
48 as well.

49 The last one is basically -- I'm going to give a
50 little bit more information just to kind of catch you

1 up, Councilman Wright. As far as on -- we originally
2 had three -- excuse me -- three trucks stationed
3 throughout the county that was Ebenezer, Williford and
4 Sandy Springs that was basically a twelve-hour truck.
5 With that being said, our cost of that was seventy-two
6 fifty, is what we allocated to those providers for each
7 truck. Well, since then with the QRV and stuff that
8 we've redone, we now only have one truck, and that's
9 actually with Sandy Springs. Sandy Springs' truck with
10 just the development up there, I mean they're absolutely
11 getting hammered. And basically the allocation that we
12 have on that, it's not supporting that program for that
13 provider. And it's also basically at a fourth of what
14 we pay for one truck on a twenty-four hour, which
15 technically twelve hours, it should be at a half. I
16 mean just keeping the math simple. So with that being
17 said, they requested that we would go up to fifteen
18 thousand dollars, which is a little less than half of
19 what the subsidy is for a twenty-four hour truck.

20 Public Safety discussed this and felt that it was a
21 warranted request. EMS's budget, by all means, is going
22 to be tight this year. In fact, we're probably going to
23 have to generate some money on some other ends to make
24 up some of the shortcomings. But even with that being
25 said, we have got a lot invested in the QRV program.
26 The Sandy Springs truck is a very important part of our
27 puzzle to make our EMS system sustainable. So with that
28 being said, we did bring this forth before council with
29 a hundred percent support on Public Safety, and we ask
30 council to consider all three of these.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Coming from the
32 committee, it doesn't need a second. So we'll open the
33 floor up for discussion. And keep in mind, this is for
34 one new employee to run the QRV program, two new
35 vehicles for the QRV program. And they are replacing
36 vehicles that's been handed down, I think three
37 different times. I think they've got about three
38 hundred thousand miles on them. And this is to re-
39 evaluate the Pendleton contract where they've got a
40 twelve-hour ambulance. This is something new. The
41 original contract was for seven thousand plus some
42 change. They was told this budget year we would re-
43 evaluate that and make them whole and get it back up.
44 They've been very gracious, I think, understanding about
45 the situation with the virus and other things.

46 And talking to Ms. Davis and the committee doing
47 their work, I think this is going to -- as Chairman
48 Graham said, it's going to be a tight budget, but I
49 think we've got to keep a close eye on it. But I think
50 it's doable and we can do it and it's a necessary need.

1 In saying that, I just want to make sure you understand
2 what you're voting on. And I'll open the floor up for
3 discussion.

4 CINDY WILSON: May I, Mr. Chairman?

5 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

6 CINDY WILSON: I wasn't quite clear on
7 what our funding sources would be for these -- the
8 employee and the two new vehicles. Will that be our
9 levy, the EMS levy?

10 RAY GRAHAM: No. This ---

11 CINDY WILSON: Can any of it come out of
12 E911 or ...

13 RAY GRAHAM: Naturally, we do have
14 some funding from the 911 system as far as on that. But
15 I mean if we back up, and again, this is some
16 information for Councilman Wright, as well, when we
17 formed the QRV program three months ago, roughly,
18 basically in providing those -- keeping it simple for
19 the city, for MedShore's call area, part of the money
20 that was allocated to that provider, basically part of
21 that money comes back to the county now to sponsor the
22 QRV program.

23 So in a sense, that's where the money is coming back
24 in. Each month we're getting that money back in. By
25 July when these vehicles are ready, you know, naturally
26 we'll have some money banked up. I don't want to
27 sugarcoat it. The EMS program, you know, it's a system
28 that we have to sponsor from somewhere. So I mean that
29 program is probably going to come up short this year. I
30 don't think it's necessarily due to us going to the QRV
31 program. If anything, the QRV Program, I still stand
32 firm, I think that was a great move on our part. It
33 gives us better coverage, better care, better quality.
34 I don't want -- when I say better control, I don't want
35 to sound like that we as a county needs to be in control
36 of everything. But we are in control of the care that
37 we provide our citizens. The level, the whole nine
38 yards, and it just creates a better environment for us
39 to do that.

40 I truly think that we're continuing moving into a
41 positive direction with the EMS Program and this is just
42 part of it. However, even though that money is coming
43 back to that fund each month, we as a council still have
44 to vote to add -- to purchase two new trucks, to spend
45 some of that money to purchase -- excuse me -- to add a
46 full time employee. Again, that full time employee,
47 just the savings alone that right now we're spending on
48 overtime and part-time help is going to offset that full
49 time employee.

50 So there's going to be some added benefits, but I

1 mean still it's going to far outweigh putting that extra
2 employee on. Just to let you know, that will bring us
3 up to nine employee for the QRV program.

4 CINDY WILSON: I do not question the
5 need. I was just trying to anticipate our funding
6 needs. I know the virus has really slammed the EMS
7 program and also our solid waste. With folks staying
8 home and cleaning out and so forth, we're already
9 anticipating some needs, increased needs there. So I
10 was trying to figure out what we can fund from our
11 current levy and maybe from E911. Because that is a
12 levy that comes -- a funding source that comes back to
13 the county, too. Thank you.

14 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?

15 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair?

16 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

17 JIMMY DAVIS: Yeah. I want to clarify,
18 too, that, you know, in any municipal fleet, it's
19 imperative that we have a rotation of vehicles as
20 vehicles age out and become a burden instead of more of
21 an asset to the county. So these vehicles that we're
22 replacing have become a burden as far as repairs and
23 upkeep that we got. So this is the start of the
24 rotation of these QRV vehicles. And just to echo what
25 Mr. Graham said, when we started this thing, we started
26 out with some clunkers almost. But they were old, used
27 SUVs. And now they've aged out. They were already aged
28 out when we started. So we've got to step up to the
29 plate and make sure that we have -- these are not
30 ambulances. These are SUVs that we're placing these
31 paramedics in. The QRV program is really important to
32 this county. And it's working. And we're seeing the
33 effects of it. But I want to make sure from more of a
34 Public Works standpoint that these vehicles that were
35 already old when we started with them, and we've got to
36 get some new ones in the process and in a rotation.

37 And I think Mr. Graham hit the nail on the head when
38 he said, you know, by the time these vehicles get here,
39 we'll have banked up some money for those vehicles. So
40 I look forward to starting this process to make sure
41 that we've got our QRV operators in vehicles that will
42 get them there in a safe manner. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Davis.
44 Anything else? Anyone?

45 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman.

46 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

47 BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. I would also
48 like to ask for council's support. The funding for the
49 ambulance in Pendleton was actually funded at the QRV
50 rate. They're running -- with the growth up there and

1 the demand, along with I-85, I think by getting the
2 funding for the ambulance that they're providing up to
3 everyone else's standards will increase the safety of my
4 constituents and the people in District 4. And I
5 appreciate it. Thank you, sir.

6 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

7 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am, Ms. Wilson.

8 CINDY WILSON: In addition to the needs
9 -- the increased needs for our EMS program, with the
10 horrific growth we're experiencing, our volunteer fire
11 departments are stretched beyond their limits, too. So
12 we've got a number of things that we need to put on our
13 list to consider in the not-too-distant future. Thank
14 you.

15 TOMMY DUNN: I'd just like to add --
16 and I appreciate the comments on that, Ms. Wilson,
17 especially being a fireman for our thirty-eight years,
18 but Anderson County -- I had a conversation the other
19 day with somebody about the schools. And I don't
20 begrudge nobody, the schools or fire department -- and I
21 know that's Mr. Wright's background, but they've got
22 their own thing. Anderson County government has enough
23 worries and liabilities and responsibilities without
24 taking on somebody else's. The fire departments have
25 got a fire commission and a governing body they need to
26 adhere to, and the delegation. But also, and we've
27 touched on this before and I hope -- what we can do to
28 help some fire departments, what I'd like to see, Mr.
29 Davis had a little spot here a month or so ago and I
30 brought this up back last year, I think any fee in lieu
31 of we do for new companies coming into the county, we
32 need to earmark -- some of that money needs to go
33 directly not to the fire commission but needs to go to
34 the fire department serving that district. That's who's
35 responsible for it. That's who's having -- putting the
36 burden on them. And we need to help them a little bit.
37 My thoughts on that.

38 Anyone else on the Public Safety Committee's
39 recommendations? All in favor of the motion show of
40 hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
41 unanimously.

42 Chairman Graham.

43 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44 As far as the discussion of (end of audio) EMS
45 budget plan, that was just a broad sentence that kind of
46 basically was -- all the items below that was discussed.

47 As far as discussion for putting EMS out for RFP, as
48 council members know, we're coming up on the end of the
49 contract and we are -- we will be looking at possibly
50 putting that out for RFP to the providers to basically

1 come up with a new contract and make sure we're
2 continuing moving in the right direction.

3 What our hopes is, is Leon, Steve Kelly and Don
4 McCowan will be getting together and coming forth with a
5 plan on that. And hopefully we'll be discussing that
6 more, probably early February.

7 Am I missing anything? Seems like there's one other
8 thing.

9 TOMMY DUNN: While you're thinking
10 about that, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to point out, we
11 need to make sure to get this right. The time is
12 essential. July will be here before you know it. And
13 we have time to do things. I think it's very imperative
14 we do put out requests for proposals county-wide, each
15 individual zone, what not. I think I was able --
16 appreciate being able to attend the meeting yesterday
17 morning and some good discussion, some good things. You
18 know, I think we get hung up sometimes in these zones.
19 The citizens don't care. They want quality care. They
20 don't care what ambulance is coming to them.

21 But saying that and saying this, as Mr. Davis
22 pointed out yesterday and in a discussion me and him
23 had, we put this out requests for proposals. That don't
24 mean -- council is still going to have to look at
25 everything and decide which way we want to go. So
26 everybody get -- because I'm sure there's going to be
27 some things some of us have some areas with EMS
28 providers, maybe a little touchy about this, but this is
29 not to say they can't put in a request and won't get the
30 request or keep things the way they are. I think it's
31 something we definitely need to look at because two
32 things for sure.

33 Number one, we keep going back around, around in
34 circles with the same things. So we've got to change
35 things up some in my opinion. The second thing, Mr.
36 Graham made this comment yesterday, I think. Since he
37 come on council four years ago and since I come on
38 council about twelve years ago, this thing has slowly
39 gotten better. I think the EMS thing is better today
40 than what it was four years ago when Mr. Graham come on.
41 And I think it's better than what it was two years ago.
42 I think we've steadily got some improvement, but we've
43 still got a long way to go. Just want to get things
44 that are best for our citizens.

45 Chairman Graham.

46 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you. Just want to
47 finish up letting council know, Steve and Don has done
48 remarkable as far as trying to ensure that we are very
49 efficient in our operations with the EMS. You know,
50 naturally on some of the additions and the changes we've

1 made this year, there is some other costs there. But
2 they have assured us that they're going to be watching
3 the budget very closely and looking at it with Rita and
4 see if there's any things that we can cut to even
5 improve that deficit by the end of this budget cycle.

6 But we are continuing moving forward with that.
7 Councilman Wright, probably EMS is probably one of the
8 things that we all get a lot of phone calls over time.
9 If there is any problems, feel free to reach out to
10 Public Safety or to Steve and them. I'm not saying
11 we're where we need to be because we're not. But I mean
12 we are continuing moving forward. They have made some
13 great strides to really get back with the customers, the
14 citizens, when there is an issue. Normally there's an
15 explanation. And we use it as a growing pain and learn
16 from it and move forward with it.

17 Mr. Chairman, that's all I've go. I do appreciate
18 your time.

19 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir. Appreciate the
20 fine, hard work you and your committee has done. And
21 Mr. Chairman, the other thing I think was discussed was
22 maybe some personnel problems with some squads and I
23 think you handled that good, telling them, I hope, Mr.
24 Kelly and his sidekick is well on top of that and taking
25 care of that. And that's what needed to be done.
26 Again, I want to thank y'all for the job y'all are doing
27 and continue to do.

28 Anyone else have anything else on the EMS
29 discussion, Public Safety Committee?

30 Hearing and seeing none, we'll move on to item
31 number 14, appointments. We'll start off with
32 Councilman from District 1, Mr. Wright. Mr. Wright?

33 JOHN WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr.
34 Chairman. Yeah, I'd like to bring forth a nomination
35 for the Planning Commission appointment for District 1.
36 I'd like to bring forth Thomas Whitfield Dunaway, IV as
37 my appointment nomination. Mr. Dunaway is very
38 passionate about Anderson County. He's a lifelong
39 resident. And somebody I'm confident will act in the
40 best interest of the citizens of Anderson County. So
41 it's my pleasure this afternoon to bring Mr. Dunaway
42 forth as my nomination for the District 1 Planning
43 Commission seat.

44 RAY GRAHAM: Second that.

45 TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion by Mr.
46 Wright and second by Mr. Graham. Any further
47 discussions?

48 I'd just like to say I want to -- I think the
49 Planning Commission is one of, if not the most important
50 boards or commissions we have, and it's probably one of

1 the most powerful commissions we do have other than
2 county council right up under it. And I want to
3 appreciate Mr. Wright -- that position has been vacant.
4 Appreciate him stepping up and finding somebody who I
5 think will serve the community, the county and the
6 district well. I don't know Mr. Dunaway. I knowed his
7 father a little bit. In all areas we talk about, I
8 think what we need on these committees, especially the
9 Planning Commission, is somebody that will -- the
10 Planning Commission is a very thankless job. I served
11 on it for a few years myself. Every vote you're going
12 to make somebody happy; you're going to make the other
13 side unhappy. So you need somebody that's going to
14 stand up and do what they think is right and speak their
15 own opinion, and I've heard that he's a fine one to do
16 that. So I'm very appreciative of him willing to serve.
17 Mr. Wright, I want you to thank him for his willingness
18 to serve.

19 JOHN WRIGHT: Yes, sir, I will.
20 Thank you.

21 TOMMY DUNN: He'll get tried by
22 fire I think next Tuesday.

23 JOHN WRIGHT: Yes, sir. Thank
24 you.

25 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?
26 All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like
27 sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

28 Anyone else have any appointments that I'm not aware
29 of?

30 Does anyone have any -- we don't have it on the
31 agenda, but I'm just going to double check to make sure
32 if anybody got any allocations of money? None?

33 Hearing that we've going to go into the
34 administrator's report.

35 RUSTY BURNS: Mr. Chairman, just one
36 second to let Mr. Kelly talk about the vaccination
37 efforts of Anderson County.

38 TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Mr. Kelly.

39 STEVE KELLY: Yes, sir. It's very
40 limited at the moment and still up for change. But ---

41 CINDY WILSON: I can't hear. Your mic
42 is not on.

43 STEVE KELLY: Sorry. Through the
44 information that we're getting from South Carolina DHEC,
45 we expect to be able to start administering our own
46 vaccinations as a county towards the end of January.
47 That would be what they call Tier 1-A, which is normally
48 police, fire, EMS, healthcare workers, that type such
49 job. With that kind of delay we went ahead and reached
50 out to AnMed Health and did a partnership with them so

1 we could go ahead and start the emergency responders.
2 Those started yesterday. They've been very easy to work
3 with in getting this done for us and accommodating us.
4 But we're expecting, hopefully by February, to have a
5 little bit better plan and start kind of pushing stuff
6 out to the public and stuff of that nature.

7 TOMMY DUNN: But this is a -- I just
8 want to reiterate. This is sort of a fluid situation.
9 Nothing is set in stone. We could get it the end of
10 January; we could not get it the end of January. Is
11 that a fair statement?

12 STEVE KELLY: Yes. We normally have
13 multiple weekly phone calls with DHEC. And there are
14 times that they will say, hey, something will be there
15 next Friday but then it shows up Monday. So we're
16 looking at any time January 15th on to possibly start
17 receiving it. Once we do receive it, we can immediately
18 start administration of them.

19 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Does anybody
20 else have any comments or questions for Mr. Kelly? This
21 is something, I think you said yesterday, Mr. Kelly,
22 with the percentage of people that's not taking or was
23 taking it from the hospital sort of lines up with what
24 you're seeing. I think you've asked for a list to sign
25 up for EMS people?

26 STEVE KELLY: It's not a hard number
27 because I don't think anybody has really been tracking
28 it. But it appears that EMS numbers, and from what I've
29 seen with the hospital base stuff, about one-third of
30 the employees are choosing to take it at this moment.
31 They've all got just different reasons for it.

32 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Kelly.
33 Appreciate it. Anything else, Mr. Burns?

34 RUSTY BURNS: No, sir.

35 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on now to item
36 number 16, citizens comments. Mr. Harmon will call your
37 name. When he does please step forward and state your
38 name, again, for the record. Address the chair. You've
39 got three minutes, please.

40 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, first
41 speaker is Elizabeth Fant.

42 ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, District
43 3. Despite all the bad things that have happened with
44 the COVID, I want to say that Anderson County this year,
45 the Christmas spirit has been overwhelming. The
46 decorations in town, even though we couldn't have the
47 lighting of the Christmas tree ceremony, the tree is
48 magnificent; all the decorations downtown. The flags
49 that are being put up, instead of just the generic flag
50 on every post, they're ones that highlight different

1 areas of the town. One that's just on the skating. One
2 that's -- another one on -- oh, I forget what they are.
3 I took pictures. But I took many pictures this year.
4 The downtown trees in the middle, the lighting.
5 Anderson County just looked great. And it help with the
6 negative attitude with everything else that's going on.

7 It's time, however, -- and basically, though, all
8 those decorations are within a two block, three block
9 area, from Fig's to the Anderson business office. But
10 we need to help out some other areas. And I'm not sure
11 whose responsibility it is, the roads. I'm not talking
12 about the asphalt and the potholes. I'm talking about
13 the maintenance of the islands that are in the middle of
14 the roads and all the leaves and the debris that are on
15 the side of the roads, that are in the drainage areas.
16 Murray Avenue particularly. All the roads need to be
17 cleaned and all of that gotten up. The division when
18 you get up to the Annex building and you're going to
19 turn towards town and come down Fant Street, that
20 divider. We can do better.

21 I have enlarged my area of pick-up to ten miles
22 every week instead of six. And I now have people who
23 see this decrepit lady out there, becoming decrepit lady
24 out there, who are now coming behind me in other areas
25 and picking up. We've got just trash everywhere.

26 So I would like to propose that every citizen in
27 Anderson County spend one hour a week picking up trash,
28 cleaning up neighborhoods, responding. Calling in when
29 you see tires on the side of the road or things you
30 can't pick up. Imagine with two hundred thousand people
31 in Anderson County, two hundred thousand hours a week,
32 that we could clean up this county. It's not enough to
33 have the downtown in a three block area looking nice
34 when the rest of the county really needs a do-over.

35 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, next
36 speaker is Maurice Martin

37 MAURICE MARTIN: Maurice Martin, District
38 2. I'm a community leader. Been a community leader
39 about fifteen years. Last session I brought a family
40 in, Tommy Dunn. They was homeless. They got evicted.
41 You know, you looked at them in their eyes and said
42 we're going to try to help you but ain't nothing
43 guaranteed. They exhausted their options. Went to AIM,
44 SHARE and all that. These organizations get millions of
45 dollars, and plus y'all contribute to them. It's
46 families out here need y'all to help them out.

47 And you talk about the jobs. Ms. Wilson, you talk
48 about the 3.5, 3. unemployment rates, you're proud of
49 it. But you've got to think about the homeless people.
50 There's thousands of homeless people. It's people who's

1 unemployed, who do not even apply for unemployment. The
2 rate that we are saying that is incorrect. Our
3 organization goes inside the community. We see what's
4 going on. We see the transportation. We see the jobs
5 that need to be done. A lot of these jobs is not out
6 here hiring. Most of these jobs out here that's being
7 brought forward to our county is not paying. You have
8 families working two and three jobs that needs y'all's
9 assistance.

10 So what I'm saying is the family that I brought
11 forth to you in December, they're still homeless.
12 They're still evicted. The only thing y'all had to do
13 was just pick up a cell phone. Even you could have put
14 them in a hotel for at least two days. Even you could
15 have called AIM or SHARE. Help these people out. They
16 came to y'all. You turned your back on the community.
17 There's organizations that feed people every day, every
18 week, every month. I appreciate your, boss man, for
19 doing that. We have an organization that do it all year
20 round. We do it all year round. We appreciate it. But
21 here it is, y'all county council. Help the people that
22 need to be helped. You have organizations taking money
23 out of their pocket to be able to do something that
24 y'all supposed to be doing.

25 Force these organizations, AIM, SHARE, help these
26 people out here, these organizations. We are community
27 leaders. We want to help with everybody. We want to be
28 a team. But here it is, when we get phone calls and we
29 don't get no assistance, we come and reach out to y'all.
30 Here it is, the family still homeless, two kids, young
31 lady pregnant. Here it is. Y'all turned y'all's back
32 on the community. Thank you.

33 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?

34 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, no one else
35 is signed up.

36 TOMMY DUNN: I would save my comments
37 to the end, but I am going to have to address this right
38 quick because I'm a little upset. This fellow right
39 here, Mr. -- what's his name? What was his name, Rusty?

40 RUSTY BURNS: Maurice.

41 TOMMY DUNN: Maurice Martin?

42 RUSTY BURNS: Martin.

43 TOMMY DUNN: Number one, fellow, you
44 need to get your facts straight because you ain't got
45 them. That lady called me and I talked to her and told
46 her to be by the phone that somebody would be calling
47 her back. She ain't answered the phone yet. Okay?
48 It's hard to help when they won't answer the telephone.
49 The reason people -- you know, you've got to help
50 yourself. We offer to help people. We're not here to

1 put people in what you call it. There's community
2 organizations, you ought to know yourself, you claim to
3 be one. I ain't seen you do nothing. But a community
4 organization does things in the community. Not the
5 government. But we was going to reach out and try to
6 help that one couple that come here and what you call
7 it, but they didn't answer the phone. So don't come
8 here with that stuff that Anderson County don't care
9 about their citizens. Don't try to. I get very upset
10 about somebody coming in here trying to showboat in
11 front of the citizens of Anderson County and you ain't
12 done nothing.

13 Moving on to comments. Mr. Davis.

14 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 First, I would just like to welcome aboard Mr. Wright.
16 I look forward to working with you, Mr. Wright.

17 JOHN WRIGHT: Thank you, sir.

18 JIMMY DAVIS: And serving on committees
19 with you.

20 Secondly, I would like to publicly thank the
21 administrator and his staff and all the county
22 departments for the last two years of bringing me up to
23 speed on how things roll in the county and how things
24 work. We've got the greatest staff and department heads
25 and the people on the street in the world, I believe, in
26 Anderson County. And I'm thankful for each and every
27 one of you. I look forward to working another term with
28 you. And I just want to just give you a big, big dose
29 of gratitude for making my job a lot easier. Thank you,
30 Mr. Chair.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

32 Mr. Sanders.

33 BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. I would just
34 like to reiterate what Councilman Davis just said. I
35 look forward to working with everyone these next two
36 years. I hope we can continue to move Anderson forward.
37 Thank you so much.

38 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Graham.

39 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Just want to congratulate you for being on board, ---

41 JOHN WRIGHT: Thank you, sir.

42 RAY GRAHAM: --- Mr. Wright. I'll
43 have to get used to calling you that. Do look forward
44 to working with you.

45 Want to reiterate, you know, some of the other
46 comments as far as our staff, administrator and, you
47 know, the entire staff of Anderson County. I'm kind of
48 passionate on what Anderson County does, too. Do we
49 help everybody? No. There's no way we can. I'm not
50 sure what happened with that other. I'm not even going

1 to speculate because what took place at the meeting,
2 that's all I know about.

3 But I do know that employees of Anderson County
4 spend a lot of time basically serving the citizens of
5 Anderson County. And that's what their jobs are, you
6 know, regardless of what division it is, and they do it
7 with a smile on their face. A lot of times they don't
8 get the recognition they deserve. But we get comments
9 all the time on this employee going out of their way
10 doing this. This employee going out of their way doing
11 that. But if you look at where our nation has been in
12 this past year, where our state has been, where our
13 county has been, and you look at what we've been exposed
14 to with this virus and all of the fallout that has come
15 along with it, I tell you, I'm proud to be a part of
16 this county. I'm proud of what our citizens does on an
17 individual basis, you know, stepping up, serving the
18 community. I'm proud of what our employees does on a
19 regular basis, stepping up, serving the community.

20 And I'll stand by that all day long. I think we've
21 got a great county, and I'm proud to be a part of it.
22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Wright.

24 JOHN WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 I'll echo a little bit of what Mr. Graham said here.
26 I'm thrilled and honored and excited to be able to serve
27 Anderson County. I love this place. There's a lot of
28 people struggling across the country, but I feel like
29 we've incredibly blessed to live where we do here in
30 Anderson County. I look around on either side of me and
31 I've got people that I have a great deal of respect for.
32 And I appreciate the opportunity to serve alongside of
33 each and every one of you. I think everybody up here
34 has a real passion for Anderson County and cares about
35 it, and that's why you do what you do. And so, to my
36 fellow council members, to the Anderson County staff,
37 I'm real excited about the opportunity to work alongside
38 you and make Anderson County a better place to live,
39 work and play. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wright.

41 Ms. Wilson.

42 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43 We have the best county anyone could imagine. We are so
44 blessed. And a lot of it is because people here love
45 each other. They love their county. They love their
46 country. And we really work hard as a team, from our
47 citizens all the way up to elected and our people who
48 staff our local government.

49 And I want to welcome Mr. Wright aboard and his
50 precious family. It's so vital to have our children

1 learn what civics are and what our duties as human being
2 are. It's very precious.

3 And I'm a little taken aback by a comment by one of
4 our citizens. This county works so hard with our
5 education institutions, all of our industries and
6 businesses to try and facilitate training for jobs.
7 There are more jobs available right now than there are
8 people to fill them. And a lot of the problem seems to
9 be -- and this is reported back to us by these various
10 businesses and industries -- a lot of the prospective
11 employees can't pass a drug test. How on earth can you
12 persuade a business owner to absorb the liability of
13 someone working for them that can't pass a drug test.
14 That is just an enormous liability. Anyone who wants a
15 job in our county, my goodness, all they have to do is
16 pick up the phone and we'll try and do what we can to
17 provide opportunities for the training.

18 I've never seen such an outpouring of providing
19 resources and trying to coordinate to make sure people
20 have jobs. We've even had school superintendents that
21 came to our county a few years ago saying they had a lot
22 of bright students who were just bored to tears in
23 class, they were afraid they were going to drop out. So
24 our administrator and others went to bat immediately
25 pulling everybody together.

26 And we also have tax credits for job training. So
27 there are so many resources available. If somebody
28 wants to go clean, they can go clean and get a job. And
29 we'll do everything that we can publicly and privately
30 to make that possible.

31 We've got a long road ahead of us this year. But I
32 have great hopes that because we have come out of the
33 last recession one of the top seven in the nation, I
34 have great hopes and beliefs that we'll come out of this
35 terrible mess, too, because we have good people and a
36 strong faith in God. Thank you.

37 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson. I
38 just want to say two things. You ain't got to go
39 probably two or three blocks to see a help wanted sign
40 for someone in Anderson County. I tell people all the
41 time, you might not make what you want to make, you
42 might not be doing what you want to do, but you can get
43 a job if you want one.

44 Our administrator has worked tirelessly since he's
45 come on to try to get training for jobs. We've got a
46 great thing with our adult education, our school
47 districts, our technical schools, our high schools.

48 But also, Mr. Burns, he's working on a thing right
49 now trying to get transportation to outlying areas. He
50 has expanded on transportation in the county to make it

1 better than it was before he got here and still
2 tirelessly working on it and with council support. And
3 appreciate that, Mr. Burns. Appreciate all you do
4 trying the things.

5 Also, the last council meeting some regular spewed
6 about the Friendship Court thing. We all seen how that
7 turned out and how that's come out and the facts. If
8 anybody wants to ask me, I've got the facts on that
9 about who's taking care of that. But some people don't
10 want to hear it.

11 But I want to reiterate back, I want to thank our
12 citizens for the great job they've done in Anderson
13 County, for being part of Anderson County. I think
14 Anderson County is blessed. I want to thank our
15 employees. My thoughts and prayers is hope they stay
16 safe and Mr. Burns looks after them as the council does
17 what needs to be done to keep them safe through these
18 trying times.

19 Look forward to this year. We've got a lot of work
20 to do. As Mr. Graham commented a while ago, tightening
21 up our EMS system. I think we've got a good start on
22 that. We've got work to do. We've got sewer projects
23 that we need to get a hold of and get rid of and get
24 sewed up and get done. We've got subdivision
25 regulations, and I'm putting that at speed. We got
26 slowed down a little bit because of the virus and
27 things, but my hope is to have something for council to
28 vote on in February on that, up and down, one way or the
29 other.

30 And as always, economic development is a thing in
31 Anderson County. As I talked to someone yesterday, our
32 employment rate is very low. That's just a fact. You
33 might not like it, but it is what it is. But the thing
34 as it is, and I told her, who knows when something might
35 happen and a company shuts down and loses two hundred
36 jobs. That's the reason we've got to stay vigilant out
37 here and try to get the jobs.

38 The difference where Anderson is today than what it
39 was several years ago, we can pick and choose a little
40 bit better now and get good paying jobs for the citizens
41 of Anderson County and the right kind of things. We've
42 got -- Anderson County has really been blessed. Their
43 economy, when it comes to it, if this industry goes down
44 we've still got some other ones to pick up. And I'll
45 tell you right now, in talking to some folks the other
46 day, we don't know how blessed we are to be in Anderson
47 and in South Carolina because people are working.
48 Companies and industries are working. There's so many
49 counties, towns and states that's shut down. They're
50 unable to work. Got unemployment. Unemployment is

1 running out. We've blessed to be here in Anderson
2 County. I thank God every day for it.
3 Meeting adjourned.
4

5

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:18 PM)