

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL PRESENTATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:
TOMMY DUNN, CHAIRMAN
BRETT SANDERS
CRAIG WOOTEN
CINDY WILSON
JIMMY DAVIS

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT

1 TOMMY DUNN: At this time I'd like to call
2 the September 3rd part of our council meeting where we
3 do resolutions to order. Like to welcome everyone
4 here. And thank you for coming out tonight.

5 First order of business is Resolution R2019-035,
6 Councilman Craig Wooten. Craig.

7 CRAIG WOOTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 **THIS IS A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ANDERSON**
9 **PREGNANCY CARE FOR ITS EXCEPTIONAL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE**
10 **THE SANCTITY OF LIFE THROUGHOUT ANDERSON COUNTY BY**
11 **PROVIDING YOUNG WOMEN WITH POSITIVE, LIFE-AFFIRMING**
12 **ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION.**

13 **WHEREAS**, Anderson Pregnancy Care, formerly known as
14 Anderson Crisis Pregnancy Center, is "a Christ-centered
15 nonprofit organization committed to providing
16 assistance to women who believe themselves to be facing
17 an untimely pregnancy, exists to minister to women and
18 their families with the love and compassion of Jesus
19 Christ by providing positive life-affirming
20 alternatives to abortion, believing that life of the
21 pre-born is precious as is the life of the mother;" and

22 **WHEREAS**, Anderson Pregnancy Care's volunteers and
23 staff daily provide young women with free services
24 including, but not limited to, pregnancy tests,
25 information about abortion alternatives, abstinence
26 counseling, post-abortion counseling and support group
27 for women who have had abortions, and a points program
28 that incentivizes healthy practices and supplies
29 clothing, diapers, formula, and furnishings for mothers
30 and babies through the baby's first eighteen months of
31 life; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Anderson Pregnancy Care significantly
33 expanded its capacity to serve young women in a recent
34 expansion that more than doubles its programming space,
35 providing three private rooms for counselors to meet
36 with clients, a private room equipped with an
37 ultrasound machine, a large classroom area, and a baby
38 and toddler playroom.

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, in meeting duly
40 assembled this 3rd day of September 2019, to take
41 effect and be in force immediately upon enactment, that
42 the Anderson County Council expresses its gratitude to
43 Anderson Pregnancy Care for its life-saving work and
44 recognizes the organization's reputation as a model in
45 South Carolina and beyond for communities that seek,
46 through practical assistance, to protect the sanctity
47 of human life and provide a sanctuary for unborn
48 children and their mothers.

49 I put that in the form of a motion.

50 TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion Mr. Wooten and

1 second by Ms. Wilson. Are there any discussion? I
2 want to appreciate Mr. Wooten for doing this and for
3 all the association does. Just some great work. And I
4 know you have supported them and been on council.
5 Appreciate it. If no more discussion, all in favor of
6 the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show
7 the motion carries with Ms. Floyd being absent at this
8 time. Mr. Wooten, do you have any?

9 CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes. If everybody would
10 come forward, we'd like to all take a picture together
11 and recognize who's in attendance.

12 **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION**

13 CRAIG WOOTEN: I think from my standpoint
14 I can't say enough. I met with these folks years ago
15 and it was a small meeting in a house. And they said
16 they had this big vision and, you know, a lot of people
17 talk about stuff like that, but they saw it all the way
18 through. They've opened up a wonderful center that
19 serves everybody in the county. It doesn't matter who
20 you are. And I just want to thank you for what you've
21 done and your leadership and the board's leadership. I
22 feel very confident for years to come there's going to
23 be bigger and better things coming. So thank you so
24 much.

25 FEMALE: Thank you for your support.

26 **APPLAUSE**

27 TOMMY DUNN: This is going to conclude our
28 part of the meetings. We'll reconvene back at 6:30 for
29 our regular council meeting.

30
31

(SPECIAL PRESENTATION MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:07 P.M.)

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ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

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

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT

1 TOMMY DUNN: At this time I'd like to
2 call the September 3rd regular council meeting to
3 order. I'd like to welcome each and everyone here.
4 And thank you for coming tonight.

5 At this time I'd like for us all to rise for the
6 invocation and pledge of allegiance, Councilman Davis,
7 please.

8 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY JIMMY DAVIS**

10 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to item number 3,
11 approval of the minutes of August 20th. Are there any
12 corrections that need to be made? Ms. Wilson.

13 CINDY WILSON: On page 8, line 29, Linwood
14 Trail is actually Windward Trail. And that was the
15 only thing I noted. Thank you.

16 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?
17 Hearing and seeing none, Ms. Wilson, do you want to
18 make the motion to accept the minutes with that change?

19 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

20 CRAIG WOOTEN: Second.

21 TOMMY DUNN: Second by Mr. Wooten. All
22 in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like
23 sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

24 Moving on now to citizens comments. When Mr.
25 Harmon calls your name, please address the chair. You
26 have three minutes. Items on the agenda only at this
27 time. Please address the chair. Mr. Harmon?

28 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, first speaker
29 is Rick Freemantle.

30 THE COURT: Please state your name and
31 district for the record, please.

32 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman.
33 My name is Rick Freemantle. I'm from District 7. I'm
34 here to speak tonight about this proposed fee on our
35 vehicles. I understand also that this thing is still a
36 work in progress, so I just want to kick around some
37 things that bother me about it. I understand that this
38 comes about because there's a shortfall due to the
39 lower tax rate on our vehicles dropping. I believe it
40 was from ten percent down to six percent, which means
41 you guys get less money. I would have thought y'all
42 would have been happy about that, that your
43 constituents finally get a break. Apparently not.

44 I also understand that you have no consistency in
45 the paving budget so this is another reason for this,
46 so that you can have monies you can count on every year
47 and set your paving accordingly. As I understand it,
48 my years of watching county council, you guys make the
49 budget, you set the priorities, so why hasn't this been
50 a priority over the last twenty something years in this

1 county?

2 My biggest bone of contention with this is for
3 eleven years this county, every other county in this
4 state, has allowed the theft of money owed to this
5 county by the state budget violating their own state
6 laws. In this county alone that represent over twenty-
7 five million dollars since 2008, and yet nobody, either
8 on this council or previous councils, with the
9 exception of Francis Crowder, ever raised a finger or
10 an eyebrow with any attempt whatsoever to fight this
11 illegal theft of money due to our county. I find that
12 very shameful, disgraceful and appalling that you would
13 want twenty-five dollars per vehicle out of my pocket
14 when twenty-five million dollars isn't enough to
15 motivate you all to stand up in unison with the rest of
16 the counties in this state and fight to get the money
17 that's due to us. We wouldn't be in this situation.
18 Thank you.

19 TOMMY DUNN: Next.

20 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Ruby
21 Garrish.

22 RUBY GARRISH: Ruby Garrish, District 7.
23 First of all, I would like to thank the council for the
24 wonderful event we had out at the Civic Center. It was
25 wonderful.

26 I am a Tea Party republican. Now, as to the auto
27 fee, I would respectfully ask that the council take one
28 more time to look further to see if needed funds could
29 be found that are already in the budget in other areas.
30 With the economy improving by leaps and bounds, we are
31 seeing the growth of the county in a residential
32 business and industry like we've never seen. This is
33 certain to grow our tax base. Please do not rush
34 through this.

35 Although it may be true, it will give the general
36 public the impression that there is a negative reason
37 that this is being done quickly. If you determine
38 there is no other avenue than to implement the road
39 fee, I ask that you consider a twelve to fifteen dollar
40 fee with absolutely no exemptions. Set up a web page
41 exclusively for the fee. I ask that the funds from the
42 fee be kept in a lockbox exclusively for the road
43 repair. No bike trails, no green pond, no private
44 subdivisions that now belong to a developer. No new
45 subdivision roads.

46 I ask that all districts receive work in their
47 areas. If there is a need for a fee, I ask that
48 everybody benefit from it across the whole county.
49 Thank you.

50 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Guy

1 Thurman.

2 GUY THURMAN: District 6, Guy Thurman.
3 Forest Glen Drive. I probably speak for ten to twenty
4 thousand people in this county to silence this issue.
5 The reason I'm here, any time somebody talks about
6 raising what we have to pay to live here, when we see
7 in some cases absolutely no services, some roads that
8 we live on. Forest Glen Drive, you might want to check
9 that. When is the last time you did anything on it? I
10 can't remember anything, zip, in the last thirty years.
11 But yet you won't do something, pave something
12 somewhere else, clean out the ditches, ditch
13 maintenance of county roads. It's pathetic. I'd like
14 to see how in the world you can save money? I want to
15 hear discussion. How can you save money? If you're
16 interested in it, you could ask me the question. I'm
17 surprised that we don't have that privilege of
18 answering a question that you would ask.

19 I think that one thing that you need to do is have
20 some kind of form so that the citizens in this county
21 can do something to help you find ways to save money;
22 not find ways to spend more money. If you save money
23 you might be able to handle some of these situations,
24 like potholes or keeping grass out of the roads or
25 cleaning out ditches. Whatever you're going to do on
26 maintenance.

27 I don't hear anything from you about saving money.
28 Another thing, I don't even know whether this is proper
29 or not, but years ago this council authorized an eighty
30 thousand dollar budget for a stupid balloon in this
31 county. I don't even know where it is. Do you know
32 where it is? That's a question I'd like to know. If
33 somebody wants to tell me, I'd appreciate it. What's
34 happened to it? Do we have a team that floats that
35 thing? I think it's pretty good, but I think that you
36 need to be accountable about things like that. I can't
37 imagine even authorizing that kind of money when you've
38 got private industry everywhere doing that kind of
39 stuff, want to float their beer balloon or whatever,
40 RE/MAX balloon. You don't need something for the
41 county like that. We don't want that. Thank you very
42 much.

43 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Youko
44 Simmons.

45 YOUKO SIMMONS: Hi, Youko Simmons, District
46 5. I'm here to discuss about 8(b), about the twenty-
47 five dollar fee. I have some questions and concerns
48 around that. And the reason why I do is because we pay
49 vehicle property tax; right? And if we drive our
50 vehicles on the road, it would make sense that we pay

1 taxes because we utilize our vehicle on the road. But
2 the thing that I see the most that's on my vehicle tax
3 is school. And that's the largest amount of tax that
4 I'm paying as far as on my vehicle, which is a vehicle
5 tax, not a school tax. So I feel that we need to
6 allocate that money, as far as school tax, somewhere
7 else where it properly needs to go. It doesn't need to
8 go on vehicle taxes, because we don't use school for
9 our vehicle. We use it for the road. So I come to you
10 asking just to look at that and examine that because I
11 feel like it needs to be -- it's in the wrong allocated
12 vehicle tax.

13 And secondly, I see a lot of mopeds that are on the
14 road. They operate like a vehicle, as well. I see
15 many of them will bypass a stop sign. If I'm a vehicle
16 and that moped -- I'm stopped and that moped is running
17 through the stop sign, I'm liable to hit him or her
18 who's riding that moped. So I feel that as we are --
19 we have people who drive mopeds on the road need to pay
20 taxes, as well. They need to pay insurance, as well,
21 even if they have a permit. Because I have noticed
22 that some feel that even if they're highly intoxicated
23 it's okay to drive a moped. And it really is not okay
24 to drive a moped while you're under the influence. So
25 I think as far as there's an area for opportunity with
26 our mopeds to say, hey, look, first you need to be
27 permitted; secondly you need to be insured. Because if
28 I -- God forbid if I hit a person on a moped, I don't
29 want just my insurance to be hit, but his or her
30 insurance need to be hit, as well. So that's an area
31 that I feel needs to be looked into.

32 And that's all I have for today. So thank you.

33 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Dan
34 Harvell.

35 DAN HARVELL: Hello, everyone. Thank you
36 for your service. We appreciate you giving of your
37 time to do this. I know you don't get paid quite
38 enough for all the hassle you go through to be up
39 there. But you do ask -- you do kind of ask for it
40 when you ask for the voters' approval to put you in
41 office.

42 I'm concerned -- oh, Dan Harvell, District 3. I'm
43 concerned about another tax increase. I know you wish
44 to couch this as a fee, but we know there's really no
45 difference in fees and taxes. If it's coming out of
46 the citizens' pockets, it's basically a tax. I'm
47 really concerned about another increase on the citizens
48 of our county. We've just had a new one by Duke Power.
49 We've had numerous increases in the municipalities and
50 outside there for the water and the sewer rates. It

1 costs so much now to have a house and a water bill at
2 the same time. I'm just amazed at how those rates have
3 gone up. I know about the mandates that come down that
4 you say are our government say caused that. But
5 nonetheless, it's beginning to squeeze our citizens to
6 the point to where I think many of them can't take
7 anymore.

8 Now, citizens want to see sufficiency in
9 government, especially when it comes to road funding
10 and what it costs to maintain our roads and bridges.
11 What citizens want to see is we want to know that we're
12 getting the most for our money from the people that
13 work for us. This is not only county, but of course,
14 state and federal, too. When we go by a work site and
15 we see five people hanging on a shovel and one person
16 doing the work, we think about efficiency and that
17 makes us think twice about increases and fees and taxes
18 for roads.

19 Another thing, it seems like the county's budgets
20 have increased quite a bit over the years. You know,
21 I've been here for many years and I know where we
22 started about in 1987 and I know where we are now. Are
23 we getting any more services for those fees now than we
24 were then? It's something to think about. The new
25 growth and all the development that's happened brings
26 in new taxes. So you have more money. So, you know,
27 from the taxpayers' standpoint we just want true
28 accountability. We want to know that we're getting the
29 most bang for our buck. We want to know that the money
30 is being spent in the most efficient manner it can be.
31 And right now, as a citizen, I can't be assured of
32 that. So, please, let's don't do this. Let's tighten
33 our belts more and look for other ways to serve our
34 citizens. Thank you very much.

35 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Mark
36 Powell.

37 TOMMY DUNN: I don't believe Mr. Powell
38 is here. Somebody must have signed his name up. Or I
39 can't see him. So move on.

40 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Elizabeth
41 Fant.

42 ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, District 3.
43 I was digging in some of my papers and I happened to
44 come across the summary of budget reviews all funds for
45 2017 to '18 and then 2018 to '19. I just want to read
46 you the bottom line on both of those. 2017-18 budget
47 was a hundred and eighty million dollars total
48 revenues. Budget for 2018 to 2019 was a hundred and
49 ninety-four. That's fourteen million dollars more
50 revenue in one year. I did not bring the one for the

1 last year. But fourteen million dollars more revenue
2 in one year. Now, where is that money going?

3 I'm going to talk this morning not just so much on
4 the road fee, but from an emotional standpoint about
5 roads' condition. The roads, we know, need fixing.
6 They're in horrible shape. Those of you that know me
7 know that I had a major car accident, which is the
8 reason I'm in the condition that I'm in. I had an aunt
9 that died from no guardrail where a rain swollen creek
10 took her life. Today I visited somebody who's in the
11 hospital who had a stroke while she was driving.
12 Thankfully she got somewhere and somebody behind her
13 got her stopped before she ran into something. I used
14 to have to travel a lot at night. One time I came on
15 I-85 when they were doing a lot of construction, two
16 o'clock in the morning, a car where they had done
17 construction, didn't have the change labeled correctly
18 and I came up on a vehicle that had hydroplaned and was
19 set up in the middle of the air. And I know those
20 people both who were in there got broken necks. It
21 happened right before I got there. Another night as I
22 was traveling in the middle of the road on I-85 I come
23 over a hill and there's a vehicle right in front of me
24 with all four doors open.

25 And that's not a road issue itself, but what I'm
26 trying to say is there are road issues everywhere. We
27 don't do due diligence in the roads that we make. It
28 is not enough to slap some asphalt and say we have
29 fixed the roads. South Carolina is as stingy as they
30 can be with asphalt. On intersections we don't do our
31 pipes long enough so we can do road -- where we can put
32 enough road there where somebody doesn't have to go off
33 into the ditch in order to make a curve. It's our road
34 construction and it's our road composition. Evidently
35 the materials that we're using are worthless. If you
36 have to go behind every three to five years to fix a
37 road, you're not doing due diligence. So it's not
38 enough to raise this money. I'm going to talk more on
39 that on the end. It's the quality of what we do.

40 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

41 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

42 Next.

43 LEON HARMON: No one else is signed up.

44 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

45 Moving on to item number 5, discussion on Project
46 MCPEND, Ms. Floyd. Ms. Floyd.

47 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I would like to
48 talk to you tonight about something that's close and
49 near and dear to my heart. I guess it can go along
50 with the car taxes. But I have been worried about this

1 thing. It's just -- you need to know about it so you
2 can make your own decision about it, as I have made
3 mine.

4 Let me read to you what it is first. It's an
5 ordinance authorizing pursuant to the titles and the
6 codes and all the little numbers thereof in Article 7,
7 Section 13 of the South Carolina Constitution, the
8 execution and delivery of an infrastructure credit
9 agreement by and between Anderson County, South
10 Carolina and Falls at Meehan Apartments, LLC, including
11 certain related or affiliated entities, formerly
12 identified by the county as Project MCPEND, to provide
13 for certain special source revenues or infrastructure.
14 It comes up for public service tonight.

15 Now, I know you're wondering what this is. All
16 right. It's an apartment complex to be built in
17 Pendleton. And it's to be built, I was told, for the
18 Arthrex. We have a company in Pendleton that's coming
19 or is there or what. But it's called Arthrex. And
20 what it is, Arthrex -- they're looking for places to
21 have people to come and live there.

22 Now, in last week's minutes we talked about this
23 and there were certain questions that were asked and I
24 want to tell you about it -- these questions. One
25 question was will the schools get some funds out of
26 this? All right. Please know that schools always get
27 funds. They get most of the fund out of anything
28 coming to Anderson that's an industry or a building or
29 anything. So the schools will get the bulk of the
30 money out of this thing. Another question was someone
31 says this apartment complex helps to deal with the
32 issue of affordable housing. That's not the truth.
33 This is not an affordable housing complex. It's a
34 high-end ritzy complex that they're hoping that the
35 people who get the jobs over at Arthrex will then move
36 right in the town of Pendleton, that they'll have some
37 place to spend all the money that they're going to get.
38 So it's a high apartment complex. We had two people
39 that believed that it was affordable housing. You can
40 check last week's minutes. And it's not. We were told
41 that it's apartments that will certainly be above
42 standard. They're not student housing and will be for
43 folks to have good -- and it will be for folks who have
44 good quality jobs such as those that will be created at
45 Arthrex.

46 Now, it sounds really good. But the thing about it
47 is, the people who are going to build these apartments
48 has been given fifty percent off property taxes. Fifty
49 percent they have been excused. They won't have to pay
50 the whole hundred percent for property taxes like most

1 of us have to do. They have been excused fifty percent
2 off their property taxes. And it seems that a better
3 deal could have been made, it seems like a better deal
4 could have been made so it would not impact us. Maybe
5 my questions are not the right questions. I've had two
6 or three meetings about this and I'm still
7 understanding it the same way.

8 But here we are, we're talking about charging
9 everybody twenty-five dollars on a car so we can have
10 road money. But what about the fifty percent tax
11 deduction. Anderson County has never subsidized any
12 county houses before. Why are we subsidizing this one?
13 Anderson County have never even built a home for low
14 income people. Why are we building homes for high
15 income people? I don't get it. I don't understand it.
16 I think that we should be concerned about it. And I
17 think that we ought to be asking why.

18 Now, I was told that, well, we did the same thing
19 for Anderson when Anderson wants to bring this motel
20 here in town, this new motel, you've heard about it,
21 that we did the same thing, we've done the same thing
22 and now here we are -- we have one small town that owes
23 us eight hundred thousand dollars. They owe us eight
24 hundred thousand dollars. That's gone. We probably
25 will never see that. And now here we are, we're going
26 to give these people, the builders -- I don't know who
27 the builders are, but whomever they are, if they don't
28 have the money to pay their property taxes, all of
29 their property taxes, somebody else will. It doesn't
30 mean that we have to do this or these poor people won't
31 have any place to live if they come to Arthrex. Look
32 around you now. We have First Quality down there.
33 They didn't build any apartments for them. They didn't
34 build an apartment for Milligan or Michelin. These
35 people live all around us, some of them in Greenville,
36 some of them in Florida -- I mean Georgia, some of them
37 down below Laurens. But yet they're doing all right.
38 But no, for Arthrex in Pendleton, we are going to give
39 the builders of the high-end, high class apartments a
40 fifty, fifty percent property tax reduction.

41 And now we're going to ask you to come up with some
42 money for the roads fee. Most of everything we get in
43 this county, we go to the schools first. It goes to
44 the schools first. Maybe we need to go back and re-
45 evaluate the money that is spent in the school area
46 because we can. We tried it once before. We can.

47 But folks, my only concern is this. I pay taxes,
48 too. I pay taxes, too. And is it right -- do you
49 think it's right that we give these people fifty
50 percent off of their -- what is it? -- property taxes

1 so they can build a high-end apartment so that Arthrex
2 will pay these people big money so they can live in a
3 really, really, really nice apartment? That's all I
4 have.

5 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Floyd.
6 Moving on to item number 6(a), ordinance third
7 reading, be 2019-036, it's an ordinance authorizing
8 pursuant to Title 4 of the Code of Laws of South
9 Carolina 1976, as amended, including sections 4-1-170,
10 4-1-175 and 4-29-68 thereof, and Article VIII, Section
11 13 of the South Carolina Constitution the execution and
12 delivery of an infrastructure credit agreement, by and
13 between Anderson County, South Carolina and Falls At
14 Meehan Apartments, LLC, including certain related or
15 affiliated entities, formerly identified by the county
16 as Project MCPEND, to provide for certain special
17 source revenue or infrastructure credits.

18 This will be a public hearing. Anyone wishing to
19 speak to this matter, please step forward and state
20 your name, district, address the chair. Anyone at all?

21 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, Mr. Chair,
22 Rick Freemantle, District 7. First, I would like to
23 commend the council lady from District 2. Spoken like
24 a true conservative. I have a question. I've been in
25 this county over twenty-five years. Where's my fifty
26 percent discount? This is just appalling. I come here
27 to talk about the twenty-five dollar per vehicle fee
28 and I find out that you guys are giving people cut-rate
29 taxes if they'll build houses. Seems to be a lot of
30 squirrely stuff going on over there in Pendleton. I've
31 heard wind of about a half a million dollar little fund
32 coming from the state that wasn't done legally to go to
33 the fire department. Maybe this is the reason, so
34 they'll have more fire department for these apartments
35 or whatever they're going to be. But fifty percent tax
36 reduction on people who are just building homes here in
37 this county when we have a shortage of available
38 housing all over this country. There was no reason to
39 give this discount whatsoever. You could get full tax
40 value on these properties, no problem at all,
41 especially if these are going to be high-end jobs.
42 These people can afford to pay their taxes. What is up
43 with you folks? Apparently I shouldn't have taken such
44 a long hiatus from coming to these meetings. This is
45 ridiculous. Thank you, District women 2.

46 STAN WELCH: Stan Welch, District 7 or
47 maybe 6. I can't tell exactly. Is it 7? Are you
48 disowning me? Okay, I was just asking. If I recall
49 from the original presentation on this project, the
50 seven acres of land involved currently pays about

1 twelve thousand dollars in property taxes. Once this
2 development is finished, I believe that amount will
3 increase to over a half million. If you don't see the
4 value in that, I don't think anybody can explain it to
5 you. It's seven acres of scrub land basically. It's
6 not being used for anything.

7 Also, the other issue is, if you create eight
8 thousand jobs in ten years like this county has done,
9 you've got to give them somewhere to live. They can't
10 all live in Elberton and drive over here. Thank you
11 very much. And I hope you vote for this.

12 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Anyone at
13 all?

14 DAN HARVELL: Dan Harvell, District 3.
15 There's hardly anyone in here that has a longer history
16 of fighting property taxes and the unfairness that they
17 bring than me. It goes to back to three years as a
18 citizen lobbyist at the state house because of the
19 punitive, punishing situation that we have ...

20 TOMMY DUNN: Wait a minute, Mr. Harvell.
21 We've got to get this squared away.

22 DAN HARVELL: All right.

23 TOMMY DUNN: I don't think it was you.
24 I think it was something in the equipment; I don't
25 know. Just give it a whirl and we'll try it again.

26 DAN HARVELL: Okay. But anyway, many of
27 you know my history on this. And if you give this --
28 any time you give a fee in lieu of for one thing,
29 somebody else is going to have to make up the
30 difference. I applaud Ms. Floyd for her comments
31 tonight. I appreciate those very much. You're dead-
32 on. You're totally right. You know, you have to
33 wonder -- yes, it's a coup for this company to be
34 coming here. But if they're coming here, they're
35 already committed. If they're already committed,
36 they're already going to have the employees. They're
37 already going to have the people here. And the free
38 market will work itself out.

39 You know, we as conservatives say that we believe
40 in the free market, but sometimes we just kind of get
41 in the way of that. And in doing so, we're actually
42 costing our own citizens more money than they should be
43 paying. So I would agree with Ms. Floyd and not go for
44 this. Thank you very much.

45 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Anyone at
46 all?

47 RUBY GARRISH: I agree that we shouldn't
48 be giving those kind of tax breaks. People when ---

49 TOMMY DUNN: I'm sorry. Would you state
50 your name again for the record and your district?

1 RUBY GARRISH: Ruby Garrish, District 7.
2 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am. Go ahead.
3 RUBY GARRISH: I agree that we shouldn't
4 be giving those kind of tax breaks when obviously we
5 don't even have the money to keep our roads up. I've
6 been to the point in my younger days when I -- at one
7 point I had eight dollars to my name and nobody gave me
8 a tax break. I still had to pay my taxes. And maybe
9 we could give a small incentive to business and
10 industry, but fifty percent is way too much. And
11 really, in my opinion, it makes no difference if those
12 breaks are being given on housing for the rich or
13 housing for the poor; it's still not right.
14 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Anyone at
15 all? Public hearing will be closed. Somebody want to
16 make a motion to put this on the floor for discussion?
17 CRAIG WOOTEN: So moved.
18 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Wooten. Have a
19 second? Second Mr. Sanders. We'll start off getting
20 some another. I don't want to start no argument. The
21 thing about it, sometimes we get things and not know
22 our facts. There's been a bad misunderstanding. I
23 know you understand about the tax breaks, fee in lieu,
24 like that. But this apartment complex ain't got one
25 iota to do with Arthrex; not nothing. Now somebody
26 might happen to work there and rent this, but this
27 ain't -- I want that straight for the record and all
28 news media. This has got not one thing to do with
29 Arthrex. Nothing. This was a request by the town of
30 Pendleton, is what started this, about this coming in.
31 Now, we can debate that or not, but it's like Mr. Welch
32 said, it is revenue more on tax that we wouldn't have
33 got. But where this come from is the town of Pendleton
34 wanting this revenue. But I've said my piece and I'm
35 going to yield the floor.
36 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman?
37 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.
38 BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. I understand
39 where a lot of this is coming from, Ms. Floyd's ideas,
40 other people's ideas. I reached out to the town of
41 Pendleton and also what hasn't been brought to the
42 forefront is this development was actually banned,
43 pretty much. This company came in and spent millions
44 and millions of dollars. They have revamped. I rode
45 through there today. I went and looked at the
46 property. There's a lot going on there. The town of
47 Pendleton, again, has requested this from council. I
48 met with them. They feel this is the right thing to do
49 in order to help the town of Pendleton, help them
50 decrease their millage rate and trying to get their

1 millage and tax rates down in Pendleton.

2 Again, developers came in. They have spent
3 millions without any breaks. Again, this is not for
4 Arthrex. This is apartments. And it is requested from
5 the town of Pendleton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. And also I'd
7 like to add, Pendleton can get their tax revenue -- or
8 their revenue up maybe they can get their police force
9 full time and us not having to subsidize it. That'll
10 be a good point, too.

11 Mr. Davis.

12 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Nelson? Mr. Nelson,
13 can you remind me and the rest of council what the
14 current tax revenue is on this property?

15 BURRISS NELSON: It's -- currently it's
16 twelve thousand five hundred and twenty-three dollars
17 on a seven acre tract of land.

18 JIMMY DAVIS: And Mr. Nelson, if we vote
19 to approve this on third reading for the fee in lieu of
20 agreement, what will be the tax revenue on that
21 property then for the county?

22 BURRISS NELSON: The projected tax rate in
23 2021, after it's completed and all the buildings are
24 up, is eight hundred and twenty thousand three hundred
25 and forty-four dollars.

26 JIMMY DAVIS: So we gain roughly eight
27 hundred thousand dollars with this agreement?

28 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir.

29 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Nelson, does this
30 property we're talking about have any affiliation at
31 all with Arthrex?

32 BURRISS NELSON: Absolutely none.

33 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-uh (negative).

34 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

35 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you.

36 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

37 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

38 CINDY WILSON: I normally have never voted
39 for these type configurations in the past, but when the
40 town of Pendleton requested that we support them in
41 this measure, I gave my vote. And seventy-five percent
42 of the fee in lieu of taxes goes to the schools. The
43 rest of it goes between the town and the county. We
44 don't get that much, but it was significant for the
45 town of Pendleton. So I will vote for this based on
46 that. If it were out in the county, I probably would
47 not have voted for it without some really good reason.
48 Thank you.

49 TOMMY DUNN: I don't think we would be
50 having this discussion if it was out in the county,

1 neither.

2 RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

3 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.

4 RAY GRAHAM: Ms. Wilson, I'm with you.

5 I think what our citizens are failing to recognize, you
6 know, as far as our municipalities, and I actually have
7 several in my district, you know, we as a county, we're
8 here as a resource to our municipalities. When they
9 come wanting, you know, to promote growth or whatever
10 they come across the board with, we truly have to take
11 into consideration what are their needs; are their
12 needs being met; what are they benefitting from each
13 individual project. And I mean, looking at those items
14 and looking at -- I wish, honestly, Pendleton would
15 have had some representation here tonight as far as
16 from their council. But I mean when they come to the
17 county asking us to support this, you can't help but
18 think, you know, they've done their homework, they
19 realize that it's going to cost us x amount of dollars
20 to provide protection, whether it's law enforcement
21 fire service or whatever, to this new apartment
22 complex, but yet this is what we're going to get in
23 return on the tax revenue. This is what we're going to
24 get in return on the tax revenue. This is what our
25 local businesses are going to get in return from them
26 -- local people shopping at the local restaurants, to
27 convenience stores, to just the mom and pop stores.
28 You know, Pendleton is a small hometown. I'm
29 comfortable in saying that they're doing what's best
30 for their community. They've got to answer to their
31 community. They came to us wanting us to support that.
32 And with that being said, I would probably be very
33 reluctant, which even like Mr. Chairman says, you know,
34 I don't even know if we would be having this
35 conversation if this was county property. But it's
36 not. It's actually something in the town of Pendleton.
37 It's something that they've requested that we support.
38 And with that being said, I can't help but feel led
39 that we need to support it.

40 Our council member, one of our fellow co-workers,
41 has done their homework to ensure it's best for their
42 district, ensure that's what that community wants up
43 there, and we rely on their recommendation. And with
44 that being said, I mean to me it's kind of a -- it's
45 really not nothing in question. At the end of the day,
46 as it was pointed out, we will benefit from it because
47 that revenue that was twelve thousand dollars is now
48 going to be eight hundred and something thousand
49 dollars. Is it going to cost the county more funding
50 to ensure that they've got what they need and their

1 needs are met? Absolutely. But it's continuing
2 letting Anderson County grow. Is employees of Arthrex
3 going to be living there? Probably, hopefully. It's
4 right up the street from them. As far as what type of
5 housing it is, that does not even matter in this
6 conversation. A community has asked us to support them
7 and I feel like we should. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair?

10 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Right before the
12 meeting we received up here newspaper clipping from --
13 it was about Arthrex in Naples, Florida. In this
14 article it was talking about how Arthrex was going to
15 pull out -- will probably be pulling out of Naples,
16 Florida because people have nowhere to live down there.
17 They don't have any housing complex down there. So,
18 you know, why were we given this information right
19 before this other thing came. And I want to read
20 something to you.

21 Mr. Chairman, my apology, one other thing about the
22 affordable housing -- now remember it's not affordable
23 housing -- I'm sure everybody on council and plus the
24 community has probably seen Arthrex. Part of the
25 reason they're not developing as much in Naples, I
26 believe it is due to affordable houses for their
27 employees. This here is right near Arthrex and will be
28 a very easy drive for their employees. So I'm sure
29 they're going to be grateful for this investment, as
30 well. Nobody said that we're doing this for Arthrex.
31 What you were told was that these high-end dollar homes
32 were being built near Arthrex so the people could live
33 there in Pendleton because Arthrex is going to be
34 there.

35 Folks, twenty-five percent reduction, thirty
36 percent reduction would have done it. But I still say,
37 I still say, you're giving fifty percent of the
38 property taxes that we would have gotten away. I still
39 say that. I still say that the eight hundred thousand
40 dollars that Anderson County will not be getting. We
41 will not be getting eight hundred thousand dollars.

42 Mr. Burriss, on a monthly basis, except for the
43 first year, the first year Anderson County will get, is
44 it seventy-five thousand?

45 BURRISS NELSON: Well, the property tax this
46 year is twelve thousand and some change. The
47 development will start, probably get twelve thousand
48 and change next year. The ---

49 GRACIE FLOYD: And how much will Anderson
50 County get a year?

1 BURRISS NELSON: Out of that?
2 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-huh (affirmative). Each
3 year for property tax we'll be getting how much?
4 BURRISS NELSON: About, well, let's see,
5 about three thousand maybe, twenty-five hundred.
6 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Who will
7 get the bulk of the money from the property taxes that
8 we are going to get?
9 BURRISS NELSON: The town will probably get
10 another fifteen hundred and the schools and fire
11 districts, but the schools will get the majority.
12 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Let's start it from
13 the top. Schools will get the top part?
14 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma'am.
15 GRACIE FLOYD: After that who is it?
16 BURRISS NELSON: Anderson County.
17 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-uh (negative). We were
18 at the bottom; remember?
19 BURRISS NELSON: Well, no, we've got three
20 hundred mils at that location, three hundred and
21 twenty-five mils. So total -- we're at about eighty-
22 five mils.
23 GRACIE FLOYD: No, no, no, no, no. Mr.
24 Nelson, you're going into an area right now that gets
25 all mixed up when you're talking about it. You're
26 getting -- if you would just answer the -- on the sheet
27 that you showed me, on the sheet that you showed me ---
28 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma'am.
29 GRACIE FLOYD: --- who was getting the
30 most money from it?
31 BURRISS NELSON: The school district.
32 GRACIE FLOYD: And the next person was?
33 BURRISS NELSON: Town of Pendleton.
34 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Where was Anderson
35 County on this map?
36 BURRISS NELSON: We would have been last.
37 GRACIE FLOYD: Would have been last; okay.
38 Folks, you can do what you want to. You can vote any
39 way you want to. I don't, I don't hold it against
40 anybody if you vote your heart. I don't hold it
41 against you; okay? If you think we're getting a whole
42 lot of money out of this, fine. If you think that
43 fifty percent tax dollars is enough for us to get, you
44 vote that way. That's all I'm saying. But you have a
45 right to know. You have the right to know what's going
46 on. And that's all I'm doing. Whether you like what I
47 said or not. I care because I pay taxes, too. Okay?
48 But if you don't like it, I'm too old to care. Thank
49 you, Mr. Chairman.
50 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman?

1 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

2 BRETT SANDERS: I think when we're looking
3 at affordable housing, we've got to put it in context.
4 Port Royal Naples, Florida, the median home value seven
5 million eight hundred and fifteen thousand three
6 hundred. I'm sure Arthrex needs some affordable
7 housing. And that's why they're here in South Carolina
8 and I'm glad they're in district ---

9 GRACIE FLOYD: These are not affordable
10 houses. They said -- he said himself these are not --
11 I asked him that the last meeting, are these affordable
12 houses? And he said no.

13 TOMMY DUNN: I believe Mr. Wooten has
14 asked for the floor. Mr. Wooten.

15 CRAIG WOOTEN: I just want to ask a couple
16 of questions of Mr. Nelson. I mean to the best of your
17 knowledge and I won't hold you to anything specific,
18 but does Pickens, Greenville, Abbeville, Oconee, do
19 they do any type of fee in lieu of or incentive
20 packages for people who invest?

21 BURRISS NELSON: All of them will if they
22 have the opportunity, certainly.

23 CRAIG WOOTEN: Same thing with -- would
24 you say that's pretty reasonable to say with Georgia,
25 North Carolina and Tennessee?

26 BURRISS NELSON: Certainly.

27 CRAIG WOOTEN: Here's where I reconcile.
28 I'm with Mr. Harvell on the free market stance and I
29 have a fundamental problem with fee in lieu of taxes
30 because it doesn't operate the way we want it to. It's
31 something that we inherited from a long time ago. I
32 think anybody on this council, if we could do it in a
33 different way, we would. The problem with it, and this
34 is where I have to reconcile is, if I don't make a deal
35 and I say a deal that's in benefit for the taxpayers of
36 Anderson County, I feel relatively certain one of our
37 neighboring counties or one of our neighboring states
38 will make the deal. And they'll take people there.
39 We're elected to represent Anderson. We're elected to
40 represent the people.

41 Now, if the question of whether the tax deduction
42 or increase is worth it or not, that's something that
43 we have to work with for county economic development.
44 We hire professional economic developers to negotiate
45 on our behalf because we're part-time council members.
46 That doesn't mean that we don't give them scrutiny and
47 that we don't ever look at what they do and that we
48 don't hold them accountable. So I look at it in the
49 same way our President is looking at other countries.
50 Is tariffs and subsidies free market? No. Laissez

1 faire economics. Let's just let it roll and it'll work
2 itself out. But our President said, no, we need to do
3 some tariffs and subsidies because these other people
4 aren't playing fair. Now whether or not you think
5 Georgia and North Carolina are playing fair or not,
6 they have something that they will use to our
7 disadvantage. I can't go back and look at people and
8 say, I didn't get you an industry here. I didn't get
9 you affordable housing here regardless of the
10 definition of affordable housing, because I had to
11 stick so hard to a principal that I let your neighbor
12 benefit.

13 Now, that doesn't give me the leeway to just carte
14 blanche do whatever I want to, but I have to look at
15 how it benefits the people here that we're elected to
16 represent. I'm not trying to oversimplify it, but
17 twelve thousand is what we get now. If we make this
18 deal, we get eight hundred thousand. I would like to
19 get 1.6 million. And if Mr. Nelson says we can go get
20 1.6 million, let's go do it. But if he's saying this
21 is the best I think we can get, I don't want to lose
22 that eight hundred thousand to Pickens because I bet
23 Clemson City Council or Pickens City County, I know
24 some of those guys, will make the deal. So that's how
25 I reconcile. What I don't like is a system that
26 hopefully one day is out of our hands and be changed so
27 we can make conservative judgment calls on it. But
28 until then we have to weigh the costs and weigh the
29 benefit and make a decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Ms. Wilson.
31 CINDY WILSON: By my calculations the
32 school district will get over six hundred thousand once
33 this facility is in operation. This -- well, previous
34 council sent two separate resolutions to our general
35 assembly requesting, respectfully, that we change our
36 industrial tax ratios; ten and a half percent, the
37 highest in the United States. Across the river in
38 Georgia, they can make zero taxes, which even our fee
39 in lieu of taxes, which is reduced. And all that does
40 go back to when Michelin first was established here in
41 the county. Our General Assembly has failed to address
42 our 1895 Constitution where it's ten and a half percent
43 industrial, six percent commercial for rental or
44 commercial, four percent homes. We do have homestead
45 exemptions which do help those of us who are over
46 sixty-five.

47 Again, the town requested our support for this, so
48 I will vote for it this time. But perhaps it's time to
49 send that resolution back to the General Assembly and
50 respectfully request that we have a different tool set

1 in the bag because, I agree, this is so convoluted and
2 it does seem to be unfair a lot of the time. And
3 frankly, and you can ask our Mr. Maybank, he says if we
4 do that it'll put the lawyers out of work. Mr. Nelson
5 was in that meeting when we had that discussion. But
6 anyway, there are a lot of complications in these
7 agreements. And I try to read through each of them.
8 And Mr. Nelson knows, he gets phone calls from me
9 because a lot of the lawyers change the wording and you
10 have to read through several times to understand
11 exactly what's going on. And that is ridiculous. They
12 get paid by the hour and we only get paid by the year.
13 Thank you.

14 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. If no one else,
15 call for the vote. All in favor of the motion show of
16 hands. All opposed. Show the motion carries, Mr.
17 Davis, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten,
18 Ms. Wilson in favor. Ms. Floyd opposes.

19 TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to item number
20 6(b), 2019-037, an ordinance to amend an agreement for
21 the development of a joint county industrial business
22 park, 2010 park, of Anderson and Greenville Counties so
23 as to enlarge the park to include Project MCPEND.

24 This will be a public hearing. Anyone wishing to
25 speak to this step forward, state your name and
26 district for the record and address the chair, please.
27 Public hearing. Anyone at all? Seeing and hearing
28 none, public hearing will be closed. Do we have a
29 motion to put this on the floor?

30 JIMMY DAVIS: So moved.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Davis; second
32 Mr. Graham. Any discussion?

33 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

34 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. This one got
36 me, too. I asked -- this is an agreement for the
37 development of a joint county industrial and business
38 park of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to
39 enlarge the park. And it has Project MCPEND. So I
40 asked a question, is this apartment complex going into
41 the department of joint county industrial park for
42 Greenville and Anderson? And I asked that question of
43 Mr. Burriss. Mr. Burriss, would you please explain to
44 them what your answer was to me?

45 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma'am. It would ---

46 GRACIE FLOYD: I didn't understand this
47 part of it.

48 BURRISS NELSON: It would go into the multi-
49 county park agreement. That's the platform or method
50 of fee in lieu of taxes that allows commercial

1 properties to receive a property tax discount.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: In other words, the
3 apartment complex won't be going into the industrial
4 park? That's not the apartment complex. That's just
5 where we're getting the credit from?

6 BURRISS NELSON: Well, the actual complete
7 title of the legislation is multi-county park -- let's
8 see -- multi-county industrial and business park. And
9 it includes -- when you say business, that includes
10 commercial entities. A rent by the year, by the month
11 or whatever, apartment complex certainly falls under
12 the commercial definition and is allowed under state
13 law.

14 We have protocols in the county that we developed
15 fifteen, sixteen, seventeen years ago when we had a
16 huge commercial project that looked -- in a part of the
17 county. And we set some limits of minimum capital
18 investment. Council probably doesn't even know that we
19 operate in our office on these protocols. But it's got
20 to be somewhere twenty million or greater on a
21 commercial project, whereas an industrial project
22 qualifies it to a half million. And so council has
23 repeatedly said that residential property in the
24 county, whether it was rental property or residential
25 housing at four percent or commercial property, that
26 that was not a subject or an opportunity for fee and
27 for discounted property tax. And we followed that
28 protocol for, I don't know, Mr. Burns, for thirty years
29 that I've been in this business. And of course, Mr.
30 Burns hired me thirty years ago and he was in it before
31 that. So we haven't changed how we approach economic
32 development as far as residential property unless we
33 are requested by a city or political subdivision that
34 obviously needs a taxed income and that revenue to
35 assist them. It is a -- it just is what it is on that
36 part. They need the help. Otherwise, we wouldn't be
37 involved in this at all.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

39 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burriss, I just thought
41 they needed to understand it and needed to know. Thank
42 you so much.

43 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma'am.

44 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? All in favor
45 of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign.
46 Show the motion carries with Mr. Davis, Mr. Sanders,
47 Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Mr. Wooten and Ms. Wilson in
48 favor. Ms. Floyd opposes.

49 Moving on to item number 7, second readings. There
50 are none.

1 Going on to 8(a), 2019-042, an ordinance to amend
2 an agreement for the development of a joint county
3 industrial and business park, 2010 park, of Anderson
4 County and Greenville County so as to enlarge the park
5 to include certain property of Project Alloy.

6 Mr. Nelson, do you want to have a little say before
7 we put this on the floor?

8 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

9 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson makes a motion
10 to put it on the floor. Have a second? Second Mr.
11 Sanders. Now, Mr. Nelson.

12 CINDY WILSON: May I very quickly?

13 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am.

14 CINDY WILSON: Conversely, this is a
15 project in Greenville County. Greenville takes ninety-
16 nine percent of the fee in lieu of tax funding.
17 Anderson County gets one percent. The previous one
18 involving the apartment complex in Pendleton, Anderson
19 County, which predominantly the school districts, took
20 ninety-nine percent and Greenville received one
21 percent.

22 BURRISS NELSON: That's correct.

23 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you.

24 TOMMY DUNN: We got anymore discussion?
25 All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed.
26 You opposed Ms. Floyd?

27 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, no, I'll vote for
28 it. I was told that it was -- this was a thing for
29 Greenville; not so much for Anderson.

30 TOMMY DUNN: That's right, a company in
31 Greenville. Show the motion carries unanimously.

32 Moving on to item number 8(b), 2019-043, an
33 ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, Anderson
34 County, South Carolina, Chapter 38, so as to add to
35 Article VI a new division title Road Maintenance Fee.
36 It's title only. Put this in the form of a motion to
37 put on the floor for discussion. Second?

38 CINDY WILSON: I'll second it for
39 discussion sake.

40 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson seconds it.
41 We'll start off discussion with just a couple of
42 things. We've still got work to do if this even
43 passes, but we've got a time thing to try to get if
44 we're going to do something to make this worthwhile for
45 the first of the year. It doesn't mean we'll vote on
46 it next council meeting. I think there's going to be a
47 few more community meetings. And the council needs to
48 meet -- have a special meeting just for this to discuss
49 it to put the nuts and bolts in it. But I just want to
50 get one notion thing I think was said tonight about

1 rushing into something. We've had almost ten community
2 meetings. We've meeting tonight and there's going to
3 be some more. So there ain't going to be no rushing
4 into this. Everybody has got a right to come into them
5 meetings and encourage you to come to more if you found
6 some answers come up tonight.

7 There was one gentleman tied in about (change of
8 audio) balloon was sold over eleven years ago. The
9 majority of this council didn't buy it. You made the
10 statement about your road not being worked on. Well,
11 that's what this whole discussion is about, trying to
12 get some funding to work on roads.

13 Now, we call it a fee because state law says that's
14 what we've got to call it. It's a tax, no doubt about
15 it. But we have to call it a fee because that's what
16 state law says it is. And Ms. Simmons back here
17 mentioned a while ago about her cars and about the
18 schools. That's state law. They dictate what
19 percentage of car fees goes where and all your tax goes
20 where on that. It's not the county that does that.

21 Like I said, we need to have a lot more discussion
22 on this. One thing I think we all do agree on, our
23 roads are in bad shape. We would also be in worse
24 shape if we had some hard freezes this past year we
25 haven't had and whether or not that comes back. If you
26 go out and ride the county and look at our roads, how
27 they're cracking and what not. I wish you would come
28 to some of the meetings and I hope y'all come some more
29 to see what it is. We've got to pay this thing, too.
30 Our biggest thing on the road fee is if we don't come
31 up with some kind of funding on the road, and I'm just
32 telling you, millage ain't it. I've been on council
33 almost twelve years, cutting, scraping and trying to do
34 this, that and the other. To make a dent in our roads,
35 we're behind, that's not going to be the answer. But
36 if we can't come up with some kind of fee to do
37 something with roads, we're going to still be patching
38 potholes. And it's going to be discussion, things out
39 and come back. But I'll leave it at that right and go
40 to Mr. Davis.

41 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
42 want to reiterate to anyone here, if you've not
43 attended one of our town hall type meetings on this
44 topic, I would urge you to -- I'll be glad to have more
45 in District 6, and I'm sure any council member up here
46 would be glad to have one or more meetings to discuss
47 this and to get the information, the facts, out there
48 that Ms. Davis has done. You know, this past year was
49 mine and Mr. Sanders' first budget go-round, and I
50 think we did a really good job as a council to pass a

1 budget with zero millage increase. Yeah, we have a lot
2 of people -- more people and industries moving in to
3 Anderson County, but we also have -- that means
4 increase in services.

5 Now, I don't like paying taxes anymore than anybody
6 else does. But one of the biggest things that I ran
7 into as I strove to obtain this -- you know, to win the
8 election to hold this seat and to represent District 6
9 was roads. Roads, roads, roads; that's all I heard
10 about in Piedmont and Powdersville. That's what I came
11 down here to try to figure out, why and what we could
12 do about improving those roads.

13 Upon going through countless spread sheets with Ms.
14 Davis through the budget process, as well as looking
15 into this road fee, one of the things that we learned
16 about was when you talk about road fee, you have to
17 spend it on asphalt and culvert work and bridges and
18 pipe. It can't even go to pay the wages of the guy
19 that's driving the roller machine or the paving
20 machine. It has to go to road paving. It goes to
21 paving the road in front of your house if you live on a
22 county road.

23 I have said for quite sometime since we started
24 this process that I do not believe that millage is the
25 answer to paving roads because it gets into too big of
26 a pot of money. It gets into the general fund that can
27 be moved around to so many different places. And we
28 just don't get the bang for our buck. What I like
29 about a road fee is it's going to paving. And it's
30 reportable and auditable. And the only way that I
31 would support it, and I think everybody up here in
32 agreement is that we do report it and we do show you
33 that we're auditing, and we do show you the projects
34 that need to be worked on. The scientific method that
35 our roads and bridges department goes through I believe
36 is called Cartograph. And we can tell you in advance
37 what roads we're going to hit next. But spending two
38 million dollars a year, if we're lucky, to pave roads
39 in the county that has fifteen hundred and thirty-five
40 miles of road is absolutely a waste of time almost. At
41 a cost -- at a rising cost of close to two hundred
42 thousand dollars a mile to pave a road, that's just
43 simple resurfacing.

44 Some of you may not know this, but I'm an employer.
45 And one of the biggest challenges that we face in
46 today's modern age is to hire good people. Well, these
47 paving companies, right now there's over four hundred
48 paving jobs available. Four hundred paving jobs.
49 These companies can't even hire enough people to --
50 what are they doing? They're picking and choosing the

1 jobs. The cost of paving is going up. It's supply and
2 demand. And so we've got more areas to struggle with
3 on paving roads than just trying to figure out how much
4 money we can get. There's a struggle too trying to
5 find the people to do the work. So the cost of paving
6 is going up. Our roads are continuing to degrade.
7 We've got to find a way to put money in there that it
8 can't be moved anywhere else. It can't be put under
9 the magic coconut shells and moved around. It's got to
10 go to paving. And this is the way that we can do it.
11 Do any of us like paying more? No. But we've got to
12 do something about our infrastructure on our roads.
13 And I thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?
15 Ms. Floyd.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: I have a question of ---

17 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Burns? Mr. Burns.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Two, three, maybe four
19 years ago we did a special thing where we took money
20 out of the general fund -- we took a million dollars
21 from somewhere and was for road fees or road work.
22 What happened to that money?

23 RUSTY BURNS: Ms. Floyd, I'm not sure
24 what you're talking about.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: Just think about it a
26 little bit. I think Mr. Dunn was the one who made the
27 motion that we take ---

28 CINDY WILSON: It came out of contingent
29 or fund balance?

30 GRACIE FLOYD: Wait a minute. --- that we
31 take some money out of the road fund -- I mean out of
32 the fund balance and put it aside for the road stuff.
33 Do you remember that?

34 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma'am.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: You remember now?

36 RUSTY BURNS: I do.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: So what happened to that
38 money?

39 RUSTY BURNS: We spent it on paving.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: All of it is gone?

41 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma'am.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: All right.

43 RUSTY BURNS: We just recently put out a
44 2.2 million dollar paving contract.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. I will
46 check back. I'll check back, Mr. Burns, because there
47 is some misinformation out there because I was told
48 that the money hadn't been touched yet. So I will go
49 back to my person and let's see what's going on here.

50 RUSTY BURNS: Okay.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Good. Thank you.

2 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

3 CINDY WILSON: It's my understanding that
4 those contracts were let, what was it, last spring and
5 now the paving is being done that involved that pot of
6 money. There was no money in this year's budget for
7 district paving. A lot of my constituents were
8 concerned because they thought the gas tax money was
9 going to provide funding for county roads, and that's
10 not true. The C-fund money will increase slightly.
11 But still the majority must be spent on state roads.
12 So we're still in a quandary. Having my form of PTSD
13 from the previous regime, when I saw this in title only
14 I came in prepared to vote against this situation
15 tonight. But I talked with our chairman coming in. I
16 thought we were going to get the rush job like we used
17 to get and not have a full discussion. And from his
18 description, we will be having continued town hall
19 meetings.

20 My constituents in District 7 had requested a
21 meeting this previous weekend and we'll set that up
22 soon. But there has to be a meeting with all of our
23 council members and, of course, the public invited,
24 too, to hash out all the pros and cons before a
25 proposed ordinance is even put up for consideration. I
26 still feel like there's funds in our budget that can be
27 re-prioritized. This year is the first budget I voted
28 approving in I guess about ten, twelve years.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Twenty.

30 CINDY WILSON: And that was because we
31 made a lot of adjustments. Mr. Sanders got in, a
32 welcome addition to our council, he reviewed a lot of
33 our permitting costs which I had not looked at since
34 the great depression that we went through. The study
35 came back that all the counties around us were charging
36 a whole lot more, so we've increased those fees up to
37 level of the surrounding counties.

38 Also, the driveway apron budget which is in the
39 roads and bridges budget is about three hundred and
40 seventy-five thousand, I believe, and that funding is
41 now in a situation where developers have to pay for
42 their own aprons instead of the county taxpayers. But
43 if you citizens have a driveway apron that needs to be
44 repaired or one put in for you, that's still covered.
45 So that allowed the county budget not to increase our
46 levy this year. And that was very, very heartening to
47 know that. There's still more that needs to be done,
48 but still in all no paving to speak of has been done
49 except in this year's budget between C-fund money and
50 the money that we put forward in last year's budget

1 that's now being paved. From 2003 until most of this
2 council was seated in 2009, there had been no paving in
3 Anderson County. Our funds were being used for, shall
4 I say, wine, women and song, by the previous
5 administrator. The funding -- this county got fleeced
6 out of about a quarter of a billion dollars from deals
7 that were done. And you can do the math in your own
8 mind and know where this came from. Our landfill was
9 given away for two million dollars; no public
10 competitive bidding. Mr. Daniel, who did the forensic
11 audit on what could be found of the contract -- we
12 still don't have a completed, executed contract -- it
13 was kicking off, according to public documentation ten
14 to thirteen million a year for the group that bought
15 it. The Civic Center property was given away, same
16 thing, no public competitive bidding, and sold for like
17 three hundred and sixty-five thousand. It was worth
18 about four million. Those people flipped it three
19 months later for three and a half million.

20 Y'all it's hard to overcome that kind of tyranny
21 that we have had to work through. But the good thing
22 is, our county, in spite of that baggage and the
23 recession, we came out, according to the Wall Street
24 Journal, one of the top ten counties in the nation for
25 economic development. That can only be attributed to
26 the good citizens of this county and the county staff
27 and the county council working so hard together with
28 industries and learning institutions to turn this ship
29 around.

30 So, no, we're not perfect yet, but we've surely
31 come a long ways and we still have a ways to go. But I
32 will never vote for anything that I don't feel like we
33 have our county citizens and all of us pulling together
34 and in agreement on. I will vote for this in title
35 only tonight, but there will be lots more coming. And
36 we do desperately want your input and your
37 participation with us. Thank you.

38 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.
39 Anyone else? Mr. Graham and then go to you, Ms. Floyd.
40 Mr. Graham.

41 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 Just a couple of things. I definitely want to commend
43 each council member for all the district meetings that
44 we've had concerning this. Since I've been on council,
45 this has probably been one of the most widely spoken-
46 about topics that we've had. And in doing so, it's
47 also been the most engaging as far as with our
48 citizens. I'll be honest with you. I still have
49 questions. People in my district still has multiple
50 questions concerning this. One thing that I have

1 learned through this process is I think every one that
2 I've spoken with agrees; we have issues with our roads.
3 The question is how do we fix them? How do we cover
4 that cost?

5 So, you know, with that being said, we definitely
6 have a lot of ways to go on this. I am willing to
7 support this tonight. My only thing -- request to my
8 fellow council members would be in between readings of
9 two and three, the second and third readings is that we
10 have enough time to get back out in our district.
11 During these meetings that we've had, we have shared so
12 much information. We have gotten so much information.
13 We have got so much -- many comments from citizens,
14 anywhere from just your average Joe, your local farmer,
15 to you know, people that's been in business their
16 entire lives, local businesses, corporate businesses.
17 I mean we have talked to all levels of education.
18 Everybody has some input. A lot of great ideas have
19 been shared.

20 Doing this as title only, this is nothing more than
21 a process for us to get it started. I don't think no
22 council member up here is willing to pass this as far
23 as the final reading in title only. We can't do that.
24 So there's a lot of information that we've got to
25 still, just among ourselves, talk it out. I look
26 forward to meeting on that second reading and
27 determine, you know, what is the final suggestion as
28 far as to moving forward with. What are we going to do
29 as far as allowing some breaks on some individuals,
30 some we're not. What is the answer there? There's a
31 lot of questions unanswered for us to move forward and
32 say, well, this is the third reading, guys, let's vote
33 on it. I think we're a ways from that. But I think
34 we're strongly working hard on getting toward that
35 point. At that point, I mean I hope each and every one
36 is going to vote at the end of the day what's best for
37 our district. We all realize we've got issues with our
38 roads. We've got to make a stand and determine what's
39 our best option for Anderson County. Not for myself,
40 not for individuals that's in my district, but the
41 entire Anderson County, our entire districts.

42 We've got a lot of information that we've still got
43 to gather. I'm definitely planning on still having
44 meetings in District 3 as we kind of, I guess, solidify
45 some of these questions that's really unanswered right
46 now. You know, what are some of the things that we're
47 going to do? What's going to be included on this? And
48 in doing so, I want to go back and share it with my
49 citizens. That's what they've all asked for; you know,
50 what are we going to support, what are we moving

1 forward with?

2 Again, everybody realizes we've got issues with our
3 roads. Everybody realizes we've got to take a stand
4 and do something about it. But we have not nailed that
5 final thing as far as this is the correct-all, this is
6 what we need to lean toward, this is what we need to
7 move forward with. We've still working at it. Again,
8 I mean I commend our council members. Each and every
9 one of us, I guarantee you, when it comes to this road
10 topic there's things that every one of us agrees on and
11 there's things that there's probably only one or two
12 that agrees on. But we're going to have to somehow
13 come together and determine what's best for Anderson
14 County and what do we need to move forward on? Do we
15 need to scrap this and go to something else? I don't
16 know. If we do scrap it and go to something else, we'd
17 better be willing to pick something else up. Because
18 we can't just keep punching this ball down the road and
19 hoping the state is going to come in and fix our roads
20 or Joe Blow down the street is going to come in and
21 give us a lot of money to fix our roads. That's not
22 going to happen.

23 We're not going to save this kind of money in a
24 budget. We're not going to raise this type of millage
25 in a budget. So again, we've got to somehow figure out
26 what is the answer, how do we move forward and make the
27 best decision? I'm looking forward to that. I mean
28 it's probably one of the toughest decisions that we've
29 came up with as far as since I've been on council. But
30 we've got to make that decision.

31 Again, Mr. Chairman, I just hope that between the
32 second and third reading that we will allow ourselves
33 time to get back in our community. But again, I
34 appreciate what everybody has done on this. I know
35 it's been a lot of late nights at community meetings.
36 Look forward to hopefully coming up with a decision on
37 what's best.

38 TOMMY DUNN: Along those lines, not only
39 before second reading we're going to have -- council is
40 going to have workshop, not to vote on nothing, but to
41 put the nuts and bolts together on something.

42 Ms. Floyd.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you. The only
44 thing I wanted to say was that District 2 have not had
45 a community -- full community meeting. We have had
46 community meetings of spot in the district and we have
47 had community meetings with all the leaders. So please
48 look out for District 2's community meeting.

49 Now, I understand that some of the community
50 meetings were well attended. Some of them were not.

1 So I don't know how well we're getting the news out,
2 but I didn't -- I was hoping that they would wait until
3 we had all of the meetings done before they brought it
4 -- because it's not ready to be voted for yet. Okay.
5 And I think our biggest -- the biggest thing we've done
6 this year is stuff that was -- really people were
7 talking about was the budget this year. Uh-huh
8 (affirmative). We've still proud of what happened to
9 the budget, and they were talking about it. And I
10 thank you.

11 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Floyd.
12 Mr. Sanders.

13 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman, I would just
14 like to say that -- and commend all the council
15 members, the community meetings we had. Not only have
16 I attended the ones in my district. I've went to
17 everyone's meetings. I think I missed one. I was out
18 of town. I understand some of the comments looking in
19 the budget. I think that needs to continue. But also
20 I would love to see, and it has been discussed but
21 nothing's in concrete, a four-year sunset clause. And
22 if people look at it from an investment point of view,
23 say you have four cars, you're talking twenty-seven
24 cents a day to get sixteen million dollars worth of
25 paving over four years. And we're talking paving
26 outside your window, as Councilman Davis said. I think
27 I heard someone mention about the state. I've reached
28 out to not only my state representative but state
29 representatives in every district and asked for help.
30 It's a problem that's going to have to be addressed.
31 It is a problem that everything else is status quo.
32 We're working, we're looking, we're trying. I think
33 our budget this past year is a fine example of thinking
34 outside the box, looking for new alternatives, looking
35 for new ways. But we've got to do something. These
36 roads, they're rated, and we can keep -- this four
37 million dollars per year will allow us to keep some of
38 these roads that's in the hundred thousand dollar, a
39 hundred fifty, two hundred thousand mile maintenance
40 versus five hundred thousand. And I would love to see
41 a four-year sunset clause to where we can actually
42 look, come back to the people and say, hey, this is
43 working, this is not working, this needs to be
44 adjusted. But as of right now I'm not ready to vote on
45 a road fee, but I support title only and I look forward
46 to working with council members. I heard a lot of
47 people complain. I think I've seen two people that
48 were actually attending the meetings. Check out the
49 county website, attend the meetings. I think the
50 majority of meetings I've been to, everyone comes in,

1 just like I would have, oh, I'm against this tax. And
2 as things get explained and clarified and a better
3 understanding of what's going on at our state levels,
4 people -- I don't want to say -- they understand that
5 there is an issue and we have a serious issue that's
6 growing exponentially and it's going to have to be
7 addressed. I hope we can all get together and work
8 something out to help the citizens of Anderson. Thank
9 you, sir.

10 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?

11 CRAIG WOOTEN: I think from my standpoint,
12 you know, just bringing commentary on this, I think so
13 much of life as I get older is timing. I joke
14 sometimes if I had proposed to my wife a month earlier
15 or a month later she would probably say no. But I
16 caught her at the right time. That's what gives me
17 reservations about this is because I represent a lot of
18 the city and, you know, within this time frame we have
19 been hit with an increased Duke Energy; we have been
20 hit with increased sewer rates, increased water rates,
21 increased sales tax. And so in saying that, it's not
22 lost on me that there's a cumulative effect no matter
23 what government entity it comes from. And that should
24 definitely be recognized in a citizen, but using the
25 same determination of timing, with every passing second
26 or minute, day, year, our roads get worse. And we will
27 have to engage on them at some point. And at every
28 juncture that you engage that's not today then the cost
29 rises exponentially and you're playing a game of sort
30 of cake walk or hot potato.

31 And so I don't think that we can ignore the problem
32 and not continue the debate on it. I would say from
33 the state's perspective, I understand what some citizen
34 said earlier, I don't understand all the nuances of
35 what's available to us. I know we are constantly
36 advocating for, you know, issues here on the ground and
37 we're communicating to the state. But I also realize
38 that the state is allocating scarce resources among
39 competing ends and they have things that they have to
40 make decisions on that are outside of our purview. So
41 any way that we can continue that conversation, I mean,
42 I think that is, bar none, something that would be good
43 for us. And having said that, I guess we have to
44 acknowledge that there is a road problem. But, you
45 know, in doing so we also have to acknowledge all the
46 other factors that are in place.

47 So I do commend my fellow council members. I don't
48 think any issue has been talked about more or more in
49 depth with citizens than this issue has and the
50 willingness to get feedback across district lines is

1 what we're elected to do, is listen to the people. So
2 I appreciate the time.

3 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. All in favor of
4 the motion show of hands. All opposed. In favor Mr.
5 Davis, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Graham, Ms. Wilson.
6 Opposed? Did I call for opposed? You oppose? Craig,
7 you oppose? Show Ms. Floyd and Mr. Wooten opposed.

8 Moving on to item number (c), be 8(c), 2019-044, an
9 ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a
10 fee in lieu of tax and incentive agreement by and
11 between Anderson County, South Carolina and a company
12 identified for the time being as Project Augustus, with
13 respect to certain economic development property to be
14 located at one or more locations in the county, whereby
15 such property will be subject to certain payments in
16 lieu of taxes, Project Augustus.

17 Do we have a motion to put this on the floor?

18 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

19 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson. Do we
20 have a second? Second Mr. Graham. Mr. Nelson, do you
21 want to ---

22 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
23 members of council, this again is much like the project
24 we had several months ago. A development company has
25 come to Anderson. They've bought land. They're going
26 to build with their own money buildings that are for
27 warehouse or industrial projects, anywhere from a
28 hundred thousand to two hundred thousand. They've
29 simply asked us to discount the property tax for the
30 first couple of years to give them a chance to recoup a
31 little bit of their money in the investment of sewer,
32 water lines and in paving that they'll have to do from
33 state and county roads.

34 This is the best of all worlds, especially when
35 you're using other people's money for the development
36 side. It's a multi-county industrial -- it's a fee in
37 lieu of taxes infrastructure credit and it's eighty-
38 five percent SSRC for the first five years; thirty-five
39 percent for the years following. Taxes on the property
40 that they're choosing this year is sixty dollars and
41 five cents. Six zero point zero five. And the 2021
42 projected taxes, twenty-eight thousand three hundred
43 and thirty-nine dollars, and that's just for building
44 one. And over thirty years property tax, three million
45 two hundred and eleven dollars -- two hundred and
46 eleven thousand dollars seven hundred and twenty
47 dollars.

48 But anyhow that comes to council as a
49 recommendation from staff and from the Economic
50 Development Advisory Board.

1 TOMMY DUNN: Do we have anymore
2 discussion? Ms. Wilson.

3 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I will vote
4 for this first reading tonight, but Mr. Nelson is
5 getting me some more information. There were a few
6 items that I had some questions about. Thank you.

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

10 If there's no objection we're going to take about a
11 five-minute break.

12 **BREAK**

13 TOMMY DUNN: ... 2019-045, an ordinance
14 to approve a ground lease by and between Anderson
15 County, South Carolina and Tri-County Technical College
16 for the site at the Anderson Regional Airport for heavy
17 equipment operator training and for a site at the TTI
18 Pearman Dairy Road facility for a lineman training
19 school. And I believe we've already had an agreement
20 for them using the place at the airport now for some
21 time. Mr. Burns.

22 RUSTY BURNS: The place at the airport
23 for some time is an ongoing request. And then on a
24 piece of land that we will not be using, they will
25 conduct a lineman training school on the old TTI site
26 on Highway 28.

27 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: Is this where we were going
29 to put that department?

30 RUSTY BURNS: This is raw land way over
31 to the side. It does not affect anything that the
32 county is going to do.

33 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Let me understand
34 now. Let me understand. This is Tri-County Tech?

35 RUSTY BURNS: Tri-County Tech ---

36 GRACIE FLOYD: And they're going to come
37 to the airport first?

38 RUSTY BURNS: They have been at the
39 airport for some time using land that is on the airport
40 and they use it for heavy equipment training.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. That's where a
42 couple of years ago we were going to use that for the
43 Caterpillar thing.

44 RUSTY BURNS: That's what -- they're
45 still using it.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But not for
47 Caterpillar, though, because they didn't come?

48 RUSTY BURNS: No, not Caterpillar, but
49 they're using it for that.

50 GRACIE FLOYD: But now Tri-County Tech

1 wants to go up there where we're going in the old Ryobi
2 building?

3 RUSTY BURNS: They want to go on that
4 property on a piece of land. Basically what they're
5 going to do is they're going to put up some poles to
6 teach people how to climb poles to be linemen.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. And they
8 could use that up at the Tri-County building -- I mean
9 up there in Pendleton to do it?

10 RUSTY BURNS: No, ma'am. They requested
11 that they use that site.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: Are they paying us anything
13 for it?

14 RUSTY BURNS: No, ma'am.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Are we paying them
16 anything?

17 RUSTY BURNS: No, ma'am.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: We ought to get something
19 out of it.

20 RUSTY BURNS: When that building was
21 given to the county, one of the ideas was that we would
22 have training for citizens in Anderson County at that
23 facility.

24 GRACIE FLOYD: But Ryobi gave us the
25 building; isn't that correct?

26 RUSTY BURNS: Ryobi gave us the building.
27 It was purchased using state funds, so it's our
28 building.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I'm not -- we'll
30 talk.

31 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman?
32 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders, if Ms. Floyd
33 is through?

34 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, I am. Thank you.

35 TOMMY DUNN: Yeah, Mr. Sanders.

36 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Burns, we've actually
37 negotiated a lease with them on using part of that and
38 that came in under that lease that we did with them.

39 RUSTY BURNS: That's originally, and
40 there's no cost. But as you well know, since you're
41 chairman of that committee, they're looking to locate
42 an asphalt lab out at that same facility that serves
43 the whole state of South Carolina and also provides
44 that training. They will be paying market rate on that
45 facility, but that will be inside the building. But
46 we're talking now if you were looking at the Ryobi
47 building straight, if you look way off to the side on
48 land that is completely worthless, all they want to do
49 is put up some poles to teach people how to climb
50 poles.

1 BRETT SANDERS: And that was sort of a
2 caveat to the lease that we done -- I thought we said,
3 hey, you're leasing this, we'll allow you to use this
4 useless property down here ---
5 RUSTY BURNS: You're right; yes, sir.
6 BRETT SANDERS: --- in the blood plain to
7 do your line training?
8 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, sir.
9 BRETT SANDERS: Okay. Thank you.
10 CINDY WILSON: May I, Mr. Chairman?
11 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am, Ms. Wilson.
12 CINDY WILSON: I would like to see this
13 sketched off on an aerial. But it was interesting, I
14 think earlier last week or maybe this week there was an
15 article in the Wall Street Journal about the shortage
16 of linemen.
17 RUSTY BURNS: A big shortage.
18 CINDY WILSON: They're trying to recruit
19 women now. And on the termination, let's see, this is
20 a ground lease that runs from 1 August 2019 to 31 July
21 2024, so it's like a five-year lease. And we have
22 termination capabilities if we have higher and better
23 uses of those properties.
24 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma'am.
25 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.
26 RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?
27 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.
28 RAY GRAHAM: This is nothing more than
29 basically continuing moving forward with a partnership
30 that we've had for years.
31 RUSTY BURNS: That we've had for years
32 with Tri-County Tech. There's a shortage, as you know,
33 as every member of council knows, getting people to
34 work in the asphalt and paving industry. It's a severe
35 shortage. This is an opportunity that Tri-County uses
36 to train these individuals, Anderson County
37 individuals. The same thing with the lineman school,
38 as Ms. Wilson just eluded to, there is a shortage in
39 the United States of America not having enough linemen
40 to do the work that's necessary. And so if they can
41 train Anderson County people here in Anderson County on
42 that property which is in essence useless property and
43 the only thing it's good for is to put a pole up there,
44 I would think that would be a win-win for us.
45 RAY GRAHAM: Well, something else is we
46 -- correct me if I'm wrong -- but we would not be
47 fortunate enough to have the growth that we currently
48 have with economic development which affects our local
49 sheriff's department, our fire department, our local
50 communities, our tax base, everything we're doing, we

1 would not have the growth with this economic
2 development without the partnership with Tri-County
3 Tech stepping up and ensuring these people has the
4 proper training and everything else. That is our ace
5 in the hole on the majority of growth that we have.

6 RUSTY BURNS: They go hand-in-glove with
7 Tri-County Tech. Ninety percent of the time after
8 we've made initial contact, the next question is, who's
9 going to train our workers? Where are they going to
10 get these skills? Tri-County Tech will go with us to
11 those meetings, they will set up special training for
12 training those people. They just had the first class
13 for Arthrex up at the new training facility up in Sandy
14 Springs. Those people are already working in that
15 plant making a product, not for sale, but making the
16 product, learning how to do the process. So everything
17 we do, we usually do with Tri-County Tech.

18 RAY GRAHAM: I just want to commend
19 Councilman Sanders and the committee for not only
20 finding a use for land that really had no value to us,
21 but we are getting a true value on this. Again, we're
22 growing our partnership. But definitely a great job to
23 the committee on what they've done with this and look
24 forward to continued opportunities with Tri-County.

25 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, sir.

26 TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion
27 show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion
28 carries unanimously.

29 Moving on to item number 8(c), 2019-046, an
30 ordinance to approve an amendment to the fee in lieu of
31 tax agreement and infrastructure finance agreement
32 between Anderson County, South Carolina and Ortec, Inc.
33 so as to add the town of Pendleton as a party to the
34 agreements. Do we have a motion to put this on the
35 floor?

36 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

37 BRETT SANDERS: Second.

38 TOMMY DUNN: Motion by Ms. Wilson;
39 second by Mr. Sanders. Mr. Nelson.

40 BURRISS NELSON: Mr. Chairman, members of
41 council, thank you for allowing me to present.

42 This is merely the Ortec project, Projects Smokey
43 and Rocky, which total over forty million dollars in
44 capital investment. They're in the old Westinghouse
45 Isola building. They bought that building and put the
46 manufacturing facility in there creating over a hundred
47 jobs. Payroll, their average pay is twenty-two dollars
48 an hour. Average annual salary is over four million
49 dollars. To be able to continue their operation, they
50 needed additional sewer and water service and they

1 annexed into the city of Pendleton. And of course,
2 that adds on the Pendleton millage rate to the project.
3 So it increased their millage. This discounts the
4 property tax for that to even that up a little bit so
5 they're not paying quite as much as they were in the
6 past, would have, if it just stayed in the county. So
7 it's an opportunity for them to be able to get
8 additional infrastructure and put them together with
9 the town of Pendleton and additionally to assist
10 Pendleton in their tax base.

11 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman?

12 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir.

13 BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Nelson, this was
14 actually an old Brownfield site; right?

15 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir.

16 BRETT SANDERS: So it's a perfect example
17 of utilizing and making use of a Brownfield site?

18 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir. It has some
19 issues, but they're working on cleaning it up. I
20 believe they have a BCC.

21 BRETT SANDERS: Thank you. Appreciate what
22 you do.

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman?

24 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Nelson, Burriss, I have
26 sixty jobs. Did I miswrite it down? You told me they
27 were going to increase it to sixty jobs.

28 BURRISS NELSON: Well, they had forty that
29 they had from Project Smokey, the original project.
30 That was about a twenty million dollar capital
31 investment. They continued to expand it another twenty
32 million, adding additional employees. They're over the
33 hundred and five total jobs now.

34 GRACIE FLOYD: But they got sixty jobs,
35 that's what it is?

36 BURRISS NELSON: Originally. That was the
37 original project. There's two projects. They've just
38 kept expanding and growing on the same site.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

40 TOMMY DUNN: Is that it? Keep in mind
41 all we're doing is just adding Pendleton to this
42 agreement, from my understanding, the town of
43 Pendleton.

44 BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir.

45 TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion
46 show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion
47 carries unanimously.

48 Now we'll be moving on to item number 9(a), 2019-
49 036, a resolution authorizing, under certain
50 conditions, the execution and delivery by Anderson

1 County, South Carolina of a fee in lieu of tax and
2 incentive agreement with a company identified for the
3 time being as Project Augustus with respect to
4 commercial and/or industrial projects to be located at
5 one or more locations in the county, whereby the
6 project would be subject to payment of certain fees in
7 lieu of taxes and the provision of certain special
8 source revenue credits; and providing for related
9 matters. This, along with the project we just vote on,
10 two or three votes ago. Do we have a motion to move
11 this forward?

12 JIMMY DAVIS: So moved.

13 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

14 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Davis; second by
15 Ms. Wilson. Mr. Nelson, do you want to comment on
16 this?

17 BURRISS NELSON: Nothing other than you're
18 correct, sir, that's the companion piece to 2019-044 at
19 8(c), item 8(c). Thank you, sir.

20 TOMMY DUNN: Any discussion? All in
21 favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign.
22 Show the motion carries unanimously.

23 Now moving on to 9(b), 2019-037, a resolution to
24 certify the Old Isola Laminate Systems Property at 500
25 Westinghouse Drive in Anderson County, South Carolina
26 as an abandoned building site. Do we have a motion to
27 move this forward?

28 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

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

31 CRAIG WOOTEN: Second.

32 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Wooten. Mr.
33 Nelson, do you want to say anything?

34 BURRISS NELSON: Mr. Chairman, members of
35 council, thank you for giving me the opportunity to
36 explain. Ortec took the -- has purchased what was in
37 the beginning the Westinghouse facility, later became
38 Isola, then was abandoned and empty for ten or eleven
39 years with nothing there. They bought the building and
40 began some repairs. Because it was an abandoned
41 building, nothing there, they actually have a fully
42 functional and operating business in there, they're
43 allowed to apply for this abandoned building credit.
44 And it's a credit against their corporate income tax.
45 By this resolution we merely say that they are a
46 company in good standing, hiring people, making capital
47 investment, and they have certainly paid their property
48 tax. So this is an opportunity for them to get a
49 little bit of additional income in the house. And it's
50 nothing to do with the county other than we're just

1 saying they're a good company and they're operating.
2 TOMMY DUNN: Any discussion? All in
3 favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign.
4 Show the motion carries unanimously.

5 BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, sir. Thank you
6 for your support.

7 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

8 Moving on to item number 10, bid approvals. This
9 will be bid number 20-004, the Chris Taylor Park
10 improvements. This was put in the budget, voted on and
11 passed, and this was put out for bids. Ms. Davis, do
12 you want to add anything to this?

13 RITA DAVIS: I would like to point out
14 that this is a furtherance of the projects that Mr.
15 Wooten's Park & Rec Ad Hoc Committee (mic cutting out)
16 money was set aside, accommodations fee (mic cutting
17 out) and council voted to do those projects and we're
18 just (mic cutting out).

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

21 CRAIG WOOTEN: So moved.

22 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Wooten. Do we
23 have a second? Second Mr. Sanders. Any discussion?

24 CRAIG WOOTEN: Just for clarification,
25 this is ATAX money which comes from outside the county
26 in the form of revenue for people staying in hotels.
27 So this is a positive thing that allows us to upgrade
28 our parks for our children and our people to use.

29 TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion
30 show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion
31 carries unanimously.

32 Moving on to item number 11, Capital, this was
33 voter registration and elections. This is -- we've all
34 seen this. This is a place to help them store their
35 equipment, get it to site and back to site in secure
36 manner, what needs to be done. Ms. Wilson -- I'm sorry
37 -- Ms. Davis, do you have anything you want to add?

38 RITA DAVIS: I would just like to say
39 that we've put up to two hundred and fifty in
40 contingency just because when the state had advised
41 that we were getting new voting registration equipment,
42 it's here and so these carts will be able to --
43 actually it's taller than me, which isn't saying much,
44 but you can put the actual apparatus where the ballots
45 go into, this is for security purposes. The voting
46 machines that fit that you walk up and vote on will be
47 in there. All the items that the poll workers will
48 need in their bags will be in this cart. And also
49 there are seven partitions so that you can vote
50 securely will be in there. So we're asking council for

1 seventy-nine of these. These are our polling
2 precincts. So it is in the budget. The Department of
3 Homeland Security has approved these. I will point out
4 that the State Election Commission has negotiated and
5 it's ten thousand dollars less than what they
6 originally had advised, print elect, the original quote
7 and so it'll be Sole Source to them. And so this will
8 just ensure that each one of these polling locations
9 that the items are stored and secured and deployed in
10 an organized manner so that items aren't left out
11 whenever -- because next Mr. Burns has to address how
12 are we going to get these to the polling locations?
13 Heretofore, poll workers and poll managers would just
14 come get their equipment. But these are so large that
15 this will facilitate the deployment of the necessary
16 equipment to the polling locations.

17 TOMMY DUNN: Do we have a motion to move
18 this forward?

19 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

20 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson. Second
21 by Mr. Davis. Now discussion?

22 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

23 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

24 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Mr. Burns,
25 remember that I called you over the weekend and when
26 you called me back I couldn't remember.

27 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma'am.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: That's what it was I wanted
29 to talk to you about.

30 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma'am.

31 GRACIE FLOYD: I saw the information when
32 it came to my house on Friday, but I was astounded by
33 the prices of them. They're the most inexpensive
34 things that we can get?

35 RUSTY BURNS: Those are the ones that
36 have been approved by everybody, Homeland Security,
37 State Election Commission; they did the negotiation on
38 the purchase price. We budgeted, off the top of my
39 head, two hundred and twenty-five thousand, I think,
40 that Rita just stated, and I think we're coming in
41 about half of that, Rita?

42 RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir, less.

43 RUSTY BURNS: Less than that. And so
44 this is money that council voted to put in the budget.
45 It just turns out to be only half as much as we needed.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. So I
47 guess it turned out -- but gosh, when I saw the prices
48 of them. We're getting how many of them?

49 RITA DAVIS: Seventy-nine.

50 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

1 RUSTY BURNS: For each polling place.
2 RITA DAVIS: And they're huge.
3 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, we shall see. Thank
4 you.
5 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? I just want
6 to point out, somebody made a statement earlier tonight
7 about so-called we save about state mandates. This is
8 another prime example right here; state mandate. It's
9 greatly needed. It ain't our people in Anderson
10 County's fault, but that is a thing. Just keep on and
11 on and on. More to come, we want good, safe, honest
12 elections, and this is going to make it easier on our
13 voter registration people, I think, to keep up with
14 this. And they've worked out a good thing to store
15 them and all, but it's just another one of these things
16 mandated and they don't send a check with it. It ain't
17 just something we just make up in our minds.
18 CINDY WILSON: It'll be really good to see
19 how that paper ballot prints out. I'd like to see how
20 all that process works. Thank you.
21 TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the motion
22 show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion
23 carries unanimously.
24 Moving on, approval of certification of the 2019
25 tax levy to county auditor. This is what we do every
26 year. Mr. Hunter has asked for this. Hasn't changed.
27 Same thing. Be no tax increase. So do we have a
28 motion to move this forward?
29 JIMMY DAVIS: So moved.
30 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Davis; second
31 Mr. Graham. Any discussion? All in favor of the
32 motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the
33 motion carries unanimously.
34 If there's no objections, and this is in District
35 1, we've got three road, Bronson Ridge, Bronson Road
36 and Greer Farm Lane. Mr. Burns, all of these has been
37 recommended by our road department and met all our
38 standards. Do we have a motion to move all three of
39 these roads into our system?
40 CRAIG WOOTEN: So moved.
41 TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Wooten. Do we
42 have a second?
43 CINDY WILSON: Second.
44 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any
45 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
46 Opposed like sign. You approve this, Ms. Floyd?
47 GRACIE FLOYD: I raised my hand.
48 TOMMY DUNN: Okay. I'm sorry.
49 Show the motion carries unanimously.
50 Now moving on to item number 14, a report from the

1 Public Safety Committee of the August 30, 2019 meeting.
2 Chairman Graham.

3 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 First of all, on August 30th at the Public Safety
5 Meeting, item number 3 was for radio fees for Belton,
6 Honea Path and Williamston. It really is not a fee.
7 It's actually basically a request from Williamston, I
8 think was one radio; from Honea Path, I think was four
9 radios, and for Belton, I think was two, if I remember
10 correctly. This is a common practice with Mark
11 Williamson basically renegotiating the contract with
12 Pal 8. Actually this time when we come to council, it
13 comes at no cost to us because he done a great job as
14 far as renegotiating that contract. So basically this
15 is nothing more than a proper procedure to ensure that
16 we give radio communications to go ahead to move
17 forward as far as cutting these radios on for these
18 municipalities. This does come forth in a
19 recommendation from Public Safety. And Mr. Chairman,
20 I'd ask full council for support.

21 TOMMY DUNN: Doesn't need a second
22 coming from committee. Any discussion? All in favor
23 of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show
24 the motion carries unanimously.

25 Moving on.

26 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 Next thing on the list was the inmate healthcare
28 services. Major Vaughan, if you could step forward I'm
29 sure you can probably explain some of this a little bit
30 more. As he's coming forward basically we're looking
31 at redoing the contractual agreement that provides
32 healthcare to our inmates. And one thing, with our
33 recommendation, that I definitely want to share with
34 full council is the sheriff and his staff has basically
35 been able to come up with the money that this is going
36 to cost through their budget. So with that being said,
37 again this is something that's needed, something as far
38 as moving the detention facility forward, especially
39 with CJCC as far as providing proper care. This is
40 basically putting us in place to where we need to be as
41 far as the future.

42 Major Vaughan, if you want to go ahead and explain
43 what you've got as far as your bids and what you're
44 looking at doing with this.

45 MAJOR VAUGHAN: Absolutely.

46 TOMMY DUNN: And before he gets started,
47 I think all this is is just a question and asking to go
48 negotiate with this company.

49 MAJOR VAUGHAN: Absolutely. We're not
50 asking for any contracts. We don't even have any

1 contract sitting before us now. As a part of the RFQ
2 that we began back in May, RFQ's came back that were
3 scored. The company that ranked number one, the one
4 that we're actually trying to negotiate with now.
5 However, the reason why we're before council now is
6 because that price tag and what's (not speaking in mic
7 or mic cutting out) this year is greater. So that was
8 the only thing that we were asking permission to go
9 forward with the number one. If not we have the number
10 two that we can (mic cutting out) if negotiations does
11 not work.

12 TOMMY DUNN: But y'all feel very
13 strongly this is the way to go and your team scored
14 this, this is the team. And in the long run it's not
15 going to be much money difference but more of service.

16 MAJOR VAUGHAN: Absolutely. With the
17 services that this company is trying to provide us,
18 we're looking basically at a forty-four thousand dollar
19 difference, what they're providing us and we currently
20 have. It's not an amount, like Councilman Graham said,
21 that the sheriff's in full support of going forward
22 with no negotiations. We're not writing any contract
23 right now. We'll have to come back before the council
24 just to go forward and have talks.

25 TOMMY DUNN: This coming from a
26 committee, it doesn't need a second. Now open the
27 floor for discussion and questions. Mr. Sanders?

28 BRETT SANDERS: Yeah, with that difference
29 there's also a lot of intangibles that it's hard to
30 quantify, too.

31 MAJOR VAUGHAN: Absolutely. The increased
32 amount of staff that they're willing -- they've done an
33 analysis with the difference in our average daily
34 population from the contract we have now, they've
35 actually done an analysis based on four hundred and
36 twelve inmates in our facility. As of our average
37 population this month, we're at four oh nine. So
38 they're more in line with that, whereas our contract
39 currently is for three seventy-five. So any inmate
40 that we have in our facility over three seventy-five
41 currently, we have to pay additional charges. Other
42 intangibles that you brought up is CEO actually does
43 the training for their medical staff. Strongly
44 requires, very strong on his -- while we were talking
45 to him -- having our detention staff there, our
46 leaders, our shift supervisors and our booking officers
47 be a part of the training. Also that's something I
48 can't quantify because I don't know the dollar amount
49 that you would put on that. This company also has a
50 ninety-eight percent retention. That's a good thing.

1 And with the increase of the staffing that we have
2 there, I don't know how I could quantify whether
3 additional staffing there is going to allow officers to
4 bring individuals in our facility and not send them out
5 to the ER.

6 So another big thing is that's going to increase
7 our overtime. And one thing that they've actually
8 listed in their proposal is having psychiatry four
9 hours a week as part of our mental health initiative as
10 far as the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee.

11 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Major Vaughan.

12 TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?

13 CINDY WILSON: May I ask a quick question?

14 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

15 CINDY WILSON: I know this is a very
16 complicated area to work through. But is it feasible
17 to look at going back to a similar model that we were
18 using before we had an outside carrier come in where we
19 had staff and in-house people to monitor the health out
20 at the jail?

21 MAJOR VAUGHAN: That was before the
22 position I'm in now. We've had a contract with outside
23 independent contracting for medical since 2013. We're
24 big on doing our due diligence, going through and
25 looking at these contract a little bit more frequently.
26 Since I've been involved with the detention center
27 since 2017, I started going down that road and I've had
28 a lot of help from our detention staff. So I can't a
29 hundred percent answer that question (mic cutting out)
30 with respect to the liability. Going back with our own
31 places all the liability back on the county.

32 CINDY WILSON: Well, it does kind of
33 spread it a little bit with an outside entity. But
34 we're still in the chain of title, so to speak.
35 They'll come after us, too, if any mistakes are made.
36 Thank you.

37 RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

38 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.

39 RAY GRAHAM: Just to kind of help answer
40 some of that. Ms. Wilson some of the biggest things is
41 there's so many regulations now. And when you look at
42 malpractice and everything else as far as on the
43 doctor's standpoint. And plus, you know, again the
44 liability that it would put on the county. You know,
45 some things are left best separated. And in having an
46 outside contractor, per se, doing this, in my opinion
47 it takes the ball out of their court as far as saying,
48 well, this inmate needs to go to the hospital or they
49 don't need to go to the hospital. There's no rhyme or
50 reason for them to say yes or no. It puts it out into

1 an outside contractor. That liability in itself is
2 tremendous. Not saying that our guys would do
3 something like that, but you can bet your tail they're
4 going to -- if something happened, some attorney is
5 going to step up and say, well, they didn't send that
6 individual to the hospital because. And I mean doing a
7 separate contract, that kind of removes that liability,
8 as well.

9 So there's several different things. I know they
10 have looked at -- they have been looking at this quite
11 a bit trying to determine what is the best direction.
12 It goes back looking at the CJCC, all the work and
13 effort that Anderson County has put in that. This
14 literally is following right in suit as far as what the
15 recommendations for that is. Moving that forward,
16 advancing to basically reduce recidivism, reduce some
17 of the issues where patients with some type of mental
18 health issues as far as coming back and forth in the
19 hospital -- I mean to the jail. Literally I mean it's
20 a revolving door almost. And providing this different
21 level of care is hopefully going to prepare us to
22 reduce that, as well, and give us better -- basically
23 get these patients -- or these inmates back into the
24 community and be a law abiding citizen, hopefully,
25 through the proper care.

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

29 Thank you, Major.

30 Moving on now to item number 5, East-West Connector
31 safety plan.

32 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Councilman Wooten, would you like to do this?

34 CRAIG WOOTEN: Sure.

35 RAY GRAHAM: I know you have spearheaded
36 this and I think it's a great plan.

37 CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes. Last council meeting
38 I had spoke with Chairman Graham about adding to the
39 agenda of the Public Safety meeting a safety plan for
40 the connector because we had talked about from the
41 money that was coming from the state that was sent to
42 us, they would expand the connector. And there's more
43 and more people walking or riding bikes on it. Fearful
44 at Ingles on 81; fearful at Applebee's on Clemson
45 Boulevard and even at the movie theater there will be a
46 lot of kids and bikes crossing. That's really busy
47 intersections, so we wanted to make sure that we do
48 that in a safe way. And then also any time you've got
49 a lot of people of all ages you want to make sure that
50 maybe we could have a blue light stand where, you know,

1 you get the phone or you hit the emergency button if
2 you're having chest pains or if a strange person is
3 following you or something like that. So these are
4 pretty inexpensive ways to make it safer. And we
5 talked with Steve Kelly, the EMS director, about the
6 easiest way to deploy these things. These will be
7 things that we're going to try to do over time as the
8 budget allows and do it with recommendations of EMS and
9 police.

10 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wooten.

11 RAY GRAHAM: One thing on that, we did
12 look at some pricing on this and surprisingly it's
13 actually a fairly reasonable cost on this. Hopefully
14 that is something we can move forward with. That was
15 definitely, again, a great idea Mr. Wooten came up with
16 on that.

17 Going on down as far as franchise agreement and
18 application process. We're still working through --
19 we've got that in place. As council members know, we
20 voted on that last year. And we have got one
21 individual that's looking at possibly doing an
22 application and going through the process. So we're
23 trying to work out some kinks on that as far as
24 requirements and what we need to do on that.
25 Definitely have some more information on that probably
26 in meetings to come.

27 Dispatch, Steve has implemented some new SOGs as
28 far as the EMS dispatch. Basically some of the issues
29 we've had in the past as far as (change of audio)
30 procedures. We've got great dispatchers; great EMS
31 providers. Basically we just had to get everybody on
32 the same page. That's what this amounts to in a
33 nutshell. Steve has done great as far as implementing
34 these SOGs, along with staff at dispatch, and Director
35 Baker. Again, that's already -- technically has
36 already been implemented and we're just sharing an
37 update on that.

38 EMS fee schedule. As everyone knows we did not do
39 an increase as far as on the EMS supplement that the
40 county does to the providers this year. They basically
41 came to us wanting us to consider a possible EMS fee
42 increase. We've done that about a little over two
43 years ago. And basically what that does, in a
44 nutshell, the county regulates what they can and cannot
45 charge for a simple trip to the hospital, what it cost
46 for drugs or what not. With the cost of drugs and
47 everything else skyrocketing, they're basically wanting
48 to come up with a fee. Basically what we've done is we
49 recommended -- kind of left it at the table right now,
50 but the committee recommended to Steve to go back to

1 the Chiefs Association to basically, you know, poll the
2 local counties. Let's see what they're doing with the
3 fees. Let's see what -- are we in line with it, do we
4 need to go up, is it something we're hitting our
5 taxpayers on? Is it something their insurance is going
6 to cover? Basically where's the money being left on
7 the table? I think every one of the members of Public
8 Safety, along with Ms. Wilson that was there, our
9 biggest concern is, is this going to put another burden
10 on the taxpayers or is this something that the
11 insurance will cover? So we're looking into that, as
12 well, and hopefully we'll have some more information to
13 bring back to full council on that.

14 There's some discussion on medical control. We're
15 probably going to have some changes on that due to Dr.
16 Stoll was looking at possibly relinquishing that
17 position due to some obligations he has. With that
18 being said, we're probably looking at appointing
19 another medical control doctor. Naturally that will be
20 brought before full council for full council's support
21 as we move forward with that.

22 EMD process with new radio system. We've kind of
23 put that back with Steve and Mark Williams as far as --
24 got some ideas as far as what we can possibly go with.
25 The biggest thing is making sure it's going to interact
26 with the radio equipment and computer system that Mark
27 and them is discussing possibly going with in the near
28 future. So again, there's some more information to be
29 gained on that.

30 A lot of information that was shared at this
31 meeting, we had a lot to go over, but really the ones
32 that, again, that Public Safety had a vote on and
33 brought back to full council has already been taken
34 care of, but I did want to keep everybody informed as
35 far as where we stand on some of this. Definitely got
36 a lot going on and I'm sure we're going to be
37 discussing it some more at the next few meetings.

38 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39 TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate you, Chairman
40 Graham. I'd just like to add one comment. If you
41 would because it's very important and this has been
42 going on way too long, this medical control thing. We
43 should have something in place on that. Should have
44 done had something.

45 RAY GRAHAM: I agree.

46 TOMMY DUNN: I understand about the
47 doctor, but we need to move on. I understand -- I
48 think they're waiting on a new doctor to come in town
49 that's going to be in this. But if it ain't, we need
50 to get this one took care of. This affects our

1 citizens and everybody around. It's about quality
2 control. And we don't this study a few years ago.
3 That's one of the recommendations, we need to get this
4 and improve on this. So we need to make this happen
5 enough to move this on.

6 RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I agree a
7 hundred percent on that. And we did discuss that. I
8 think our EMS system has made great strides in moving
9 forward. As fellow council members can attest to this,
10 that was one thing that I did say point blank we have
11 failed on. And if it's okay with council, I will go
12 back to Steve and let him know that we do need to move
13 through this process and try to get something in place.
14 We definitely don't want to hurry up by no means, but
15 we want to put the right person in the position. But
16 in the same respect, it is a very key part of this
17 process.

18 TOMMY DUNN: I don't think we'll be
19 hearing it after waiting as long as we've waited on it.

20 RAY GRAHAM: I agree.

21 TOMMY DUNN: I appreciate it.

22 Now moving on to item number 15, appointments. Mr.
23 Sanders.

24 BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.
25 I'd like to put in the form of a motion for Harold D.
26 Durham, Jr. to fill a vacancy on the Land Use and
27 Zoning Board of Appeals.

28 TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion. Do I have a
29 second? Second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? I think
30 that's a fine appointment and will do well. All in
31 favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign.
32 Show the motion carries unanimously.

33 I think Ms. Wilson has got something.

34 CINDY WILSON: I do. With our disbanding
35 of the Citizen Advisory Zoning Board groups for
36 District 7, I have some wonderful volunteers. Tonight
37 I would like to appoint Ms. Catherine Bucks to the
38 Behavioral Service Board and Ms. Catherine Hamby to the
39 ATAX Board. Their applications are on file from
40 Citizen Advisory ---

41 TOMMY DUNN: I see them here. We have a
42 motion by Ms. Wilson. Do we have a second? Have a
43 second from Mr. Sanders. Any discussion? All in favor
44 of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show
45 the motion carries unanimously.

46 Anyone else have any appointments?

47 Moving on now, requests by council members. Mr.
48 Davis.

49 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. From
50 District 6's special projects fund, I would like to

1 allocate one thousand five hundred dollars to the Wren
2 High Bass Team -- it's not the Wren High, it's the Wren
3 Bass Team; middle school is included. And I would also
4 like to allocate one hundred dollars to FAVOR of
5 Anderson. I make that in the form of a motion.

6 TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion. Do I have a
7 second?

8 CINDY WILSON: Second.

9 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any
10 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
11 Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
12 unanimously. Anything else, Mr. Davis?

13 JIMMY DAVIS: No, sir.

14 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

15 BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. I'd like to put
16 them all ---

17 TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead. That'll be fine.

18 BRETT SANDERS: --- if I could. First Tee
19 of the Upstate, I'd like to give five hundred; Anderson
20 County Humane Society, three hundred; Faces and Voices
21 of Recovery, two hundred. I'd like to put that in the
22 form of a motion.

23 TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion by Mr.
24 Sanders. Have a second?

25 CINDY WILSON: Second.

26 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson. Any
27 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
28 Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
29 unanimously. Anything else, Mr. Sanders?

30 BRETT SANDERS: No, sir. Thank you.

31 TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: (Mic not on)

33 TOMMY DUNN: That's a group; they've
34 been around a long time. I think they're on Whitner
35 Street. They do work for women that's been battered or
36 abused and other things, a shelter. And I think this
37 request is they requested for a frigidaire. They're in
38 deed of a frigidaire and they're trying to get money up
39 to get a frigidaire.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Dunn, I don't
41 know how to do this, but may I suggest that they get in
42 touch with the Frigidaire company?

43 TOMMY DUNN: They have. They said they
44 quit doing that. They won't do nothing else, is my
45 understanding.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, you're kidding?

47 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am. Anything else?
48 Mr. Graham.

49 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 If it's okay I'll do all ---

1 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir.
2 RAY GRAHAM: --- mine together, as well.
3 Just want to mention one thing before I do this.
4 Anderson Pregnancy Care, I hate I missed the
5 presentation at an earlier meeting. I had a prior
6 engagement I could not get away from. But they
7 definitely do great work. Ms. Audrey Shaw, she is just
8 absolutely -- does wonderful with that program. With
9 that being said, when they actually brought their
10 request forth is when I was at Hilton Head at the
11 conference. I'd like to do twenty-five hundred dollars
12 to Anderson Pregnancy Care. I'd like to do five
13 thousand dollars to City of Belton Parks & Recreational
14 Department; I'd like to do a hundred dollars to
15 Anderson County Humane Society. I bring that in forth
16 of a motion.
17 TOMMY DUNN: Have a motion Mr. Graham.
18 Have a second? Second Ms. Wilson. Any discussion?
19 All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like
20 sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
21 Mr. Wooten.
22 CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'll
23 put three together and make a motion to do three
24 hundred dollars for the Humane Society; three hundred
25 dollars for the Lights of Hope; and three hundred
26 dollars for the Faces and Voices of Recovery. I put
27 that in the form of a motion.
28 TOMMY DUNN: Second Ms. Wilson; motion
29 by Mr. Wooten. Any discussion? All in favor of the
30 motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the
31 motion carries unanimously.
32 Ms. Wilson?
33 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. From District
34 7's recreation fund, may I appropriate three hundred
35 for the Anderson County Humane Society; one hundred for
36 the Lights of Hope; and one hundred dollars for the
37 FAVOR request.
38 TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion by Ms.
39 Wilson. Have a second? Second Mr. Davis. Any
40 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
41 Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
42 unanimously.
43 Mr. Burns.
44 RUSTY BURNS: Nothing at this time.
45 TOMMY DUNN: No, hang on just a minute
46 now. Hang on. Look here, ain't nobody wanting to get
47 out of here no more worser than me and Ms. Floyd, but
48 you've just got to settle down here a minute.
49 It's my understanding, you correct me if I'm wrong,
50 FAVOR needed eight hundred dollars; is that right?

1 RUSTY BURNS: Correct.
2 TOMMY DUNN: I just want to make sure
3 they get what they need. So I think my calculation is
4 they got seven. From District 5's account, give one
5 hundred to FAVOR, to give them a total of eight hundred
6 dollars; and give three hundred dollars to the Humane
7 Society for the Fur Ball. Put that in the form of a
8 motion.
9 BRETT SANDERS: Second.
10 TOMMY DUNN: Second by Mr. Sanders. Any
11 discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands.
12 Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries
13 unanimously.
14 Now you can hit it.
15 RUSTY BURNS: My answer still stands.
16 TOMMY DUNN: Now citizens comments.
17 When Mr. Harmon calls your name, please state your name
18 and district for the record. You have three minutes.
19 Address the Chair, please. Mr. Harmon.
20 LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, first speaker
21 is Rick Freemantle.
22 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman.
23 I'm from District 7. Been meaning to get here and
24 comment on the latest happenings with Mr. Preston.
25 There's two of you on this council I really want to
26 give a special thanks to for sticking to this. I know
27 you guys got a lot of grief from a lot of people. Some
28 of you new folks, if you helped with this my thanks
29 goes out to you also. I know there was a lot of
30 discussion about how much money this was costing the
31 county. Sometimes money doesn't need to be the issue.
32 And this was a perfect example. The precedence set
33 with this case is going to help people in this state
34 for generations to come.
35 No longer will we have clowns sit in positions
36 where they can have anticipatory breaches of contracts.
37 How I wish I could get away with that. But anyways, I
38 know you guys went through a lot of grief. I know it
39 was a long tough-fought battle. And I really want to
40 commend you for sticking to it and doing the right
41 thing in spite of all the grief you caught. I know I
42 come here and give you guys grief a lot of times. This
43 is one time where you really deserve a huge pat on the
44 back. Thank you.
45 TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.
46 LEON HARMON: Next speaker signed up is
47 Mark Powell. I don't believe he's here tonight.
48 TOMMY DUNN: He left the building.
49 LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Elizabeth
50 Fant.

1 ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, District 3.
2 The road thing. I guess I'm leaning towards a road fee
3 because I don't think that if we do it -- really what
4 I'd like to do is do a one cent sales tax if we thought
5 we really needed the road money, but I don't want to do
6 that because the sales tax gets collected in Columbia
7 and then they send us what they want to send us
8 basically. If you are aware, the Legislation changed
9 the aid to subdivision formula in May. Did you know
10 that? So they're not going to give us any more than
11 they want to. Likewise, as somebody pointed out today,
12 I don't know why it is that the rest of you all won't
13 sit on them more because you're citizens just like the
14 rest of us, even if you are a council person, and they
15 shouldn't be allowed to do that. It's our money, our
16 tax money, that goes to Columbia. We're supposed to
17 get a share back. It should be the fair share. I get
18 very upset when I hear that they're spending forty
19 million for a Carolina Panthers exit ramp. They're
20 spending -- even on the radio this morning they were
21 talking about how Darlington car thing gets a hundred
22 thousand dollars last year. Talking about the Carolina
23 Law Library, that they're going to do another one and
24 that's going to cost three hundred million. And I
25 understand there's a bonus of about three hundred and
26 fifty million sitting in Columbia and they dang share
27 it with us. It's our money.

28 We should be able to find some money out of the
29 general budget -- general fund budget. And I don't
30 understand, if we're going to do that, why don't we
31 just go ahead just like we do for the library and just
32 like we do for Tri-County Tech, we set aside a certain
33 millage every year for roads.

34 That being said, do you remember when we used to
35 get an inspection sticker on our car. Used to cost
36 about ten bucks. They stopped doing that because all
37 you had to do was find a buddy who would check off the
38 stuff whether you had raw tires or no horn or whatever.
39 I'd like to see, if we go forward with this, that there
40 be a whole lot more discussion. I don't want to have
41 second reading until you all have had your little
42 budget workshop thing, and you don't need to do it at
43 twelve o'clock in the middle of the day. You need to
44 do it at night when other people can come like citizens
45 tonight.

46 Here's what I suggest. I know I'm probably going
47 to run out of time. If you do a road fee, do a twelve
48 dollar fee per vehicle. That's twenty-five cents a
49 week per vehicle. If you've got four vehicles at home,
50 that's only forty-eight dollars a year. If you're

1 Cromer & Son food thing, you can probably get by with a
2 reasonable amount. These people have got a fleet of
3 vehicles. We do it for two years sunset, not four. Of
4 course it'll take a year for the money to ---

5 LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

6 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

7 Next.

8 LEON HARMON: No one else is signed up.

9 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. We're going to
10 have comments from council. Mr. Davis.

11 JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
12 want to say Celebrate Anderson was one of the best
13 times I've had in a long time. And I thank all the
14 county staff that worked so hard to put it on. Thank
15 you.

16 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Sanders.

17 BRETT SANDERS: Likewise. I was back out
18 there today. Everything is spotless, looking great. I
19 know everyone worked hard, overtime. It was a
20 spectacular event and I appreciate all the hard work
21 that the county put into it.

22 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Ms. Floyd.

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burns, it's hurricane
24 season again.

25 RUSTY BURNS: Yes, ma'am.

26 GRACIE FLOYD: And as you know, in the
27 past, not eight years is a long time ago but in the
28 last five years, we've had a lot of our workers
29 exiting, going down to the coast to work. As you know,
30 I have always been against that because it's double
31 payment. Now, a lot of you may not have realized this.
32 But every time they went down to the coast to pass out
33 water, they were getting paid from the FEMA people and
34 then they were getting money for their jobs that they
35 left here to go down there.

36 Now, a lot of these were office workers. Mr.
37 Burns, I don't mind our people who specialize in this
38 kind of thing going down; EMS, the roads and bridges,
39 the people who cut the trees, the people who suck up
40 the water that they do here for us. I think that they
41 ought to be down there. But Mr. Burns, I don't think
42 no secretary or no office worker or anybody else should
43 be going down there to get that extra money. I have
44 been against that from the first. All right. And I'm
45 hoping that that's a practice that we won't have to be
46 doing any more. You can just leave your job -- walk
47 off your job to go down there to get that money.

48 Okay. We're closing Allen Park. That's one of the
49 parks around the Broadway Lake. Okay. We're closing
50 it because it wasn't being used that much. And when it

1 was being used, it wasn't being used (not speaking into
2 mic). So this is a park that we're closing.

3 If you missed the trip to ITT, you missed it. We
4 had a good time. I have -- my son have told me about a
5 place in Charlotte just like that that he has worked.
6 They have a full cafeteria; they have a full gym; they
7 have -- it's just a wonderful place. ITT. If you can
8 ever get an invitation up there, please, please go.
9 Where were you?

10 CRAIG WOOTEN: My wife informed me I was
11 taking the kids to school that morning.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: That's no excuse because
13 you could have dropped them off and come on up.

14 CRAIG WOOTEN: I don't know if I could
15 have made it in time.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah, he made it. Brett
17 made it; didn't you?

18 BRETT SANDERS: No. I was out of town.

19 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay, yeah. We had a good
20 time. But we need to start going. But you missed
21 those horses, the Clydesdale. Oh, man, they were
22 beautiful. They were just absolutely beautiful. And I
23 can't think of nothing else better that you had going
24 other than your family. Now I can excuse families for
25 anything; okay?

26 CRAIG WOOTEN: Okay.

27 GRACIE FLOYD: But a job and other stuff
28 y'all are doing, you should have been there.

29 And Mr. Burns, may I suggest something, please?
30 When we are invited to places like that, why don't we
31 call one or two of our constituents and see if they
32 would like to go just to see the thing because they can
33 help us spread the good news out there; okay? They
34 wouldn't mind. Three more plates wouldn't hurt. Mr.
35 Dunn ate heartily. It was just that good in the
36 cafeteria. Anyway, that's all I had to say. And I
37 thank you.

38 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Graham.

39 RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
40 know it's getting late, but Mr. Burns, if you would, by
41 all means let all of our county employees know that
42 worked so hard on Celebrate Anderson. I know they're
43 already planning for next year. I mean it's just a
44 tremendous amount of work that goes into it.

45 Definitely had a great time. As always, I think we top
46 ourselves every year. It's just a great event. Good
47 for everyone's families, our employees, our community.
48 Glad Anderson County is able to take part in that.
49 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

50 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Wooten.

1 CRAIG WOOTEN: Just real quickly, I feel
2 like I don't get constituent calls for two weeks and
3 then I'll get six in one day. And when that happens
4 staff has been so helpful in getting back to people in
5 a timely manner with either an answer or help with
6 their problem. I appreciate that.

7 TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Ms. Wilson.

8 CINDY WILSON: Well, I heard from a lot of
9 4-H'ers and pony clubbers and their families, so please
10 pass on to Ms. Adrienne Cole how much they appreciated
11 that ability to get up close with the Clydesdales. And
12 thank y'all for your prayers. I appreciate it. Thank
13 you.

14 TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma'am. Just a couple
15 of things. I want the whole council to wish Mr. Harmon
16 a happy birthday. Appreciate all you do and hope you
17 have a good birthday. And I think you had a good
18 surprise, I think Saturday you said your son got to
19 come back, so I know you enjoyed that.

20 LEON HARMON: I did, Mr. Dunn. He was
21 able -- he and his wife were able to come over from
22 Germany. He has to go back tomorrow. They don't give
23 him much time off. He flies airplanes in the Air
24 Force. But thank you very much. I appreciate that.

25 TOMMY DUNN: I also want to thank Mr.
26 Burns, you and your staff, for putting Celebrate
27 Anderson together. And the clean-up, the process it
28 goes through. Y'all don't realize, this thing don't
29 just start Labor Day weekend. It starts back with them
30 working, getting money raised. Appreciate all the
31 staff and all the hard work.

32 Just want to also thank again, Mr. Wooten, for
33 bringing our six o'clock agenda to on the pregnancy
34 thing. Appreciate all you do on that and your
35 leadership on that, Mr. Wooten.

36 I also want, the last thing, just bring up, I was
37 told today, Anderson County has passed Spartanburg on
38 our median pay. So we're number two now. And that's
39 great. Chasing that. That's only a good thing for
40 Anderson County. That means people's got good jobs.
41 They're able to buy things and that's what it's all
42 about.

43 Y'all have a good night.

44
45

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:55 P.M.)