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

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT
TOMMY DUNN: ... regular county council meeting, which is called a special called meeting -- this is really a basic regular council meeting -- to order of June 18th. Like to welcome each and everyone of you here tonight at the Civic Center. Appreciate your patience. This is something we’re going through, we’re having to trial and learn. We’ve learned a lot from the two other meetings we’ve had and appreciate you practicing social distancing.

At this time, Ms. Wilson hasn’t arrived yet, so I’m going to ask ---

CINDY WILSON: I’m here.

TOMMY DUNN: I’m sorry, Ms. Wilson.

At this time I’ll ask Council Lady Ms. Wilson if she’ll lead us in the invocation and pledge of allegiance. If we’ll all rise, please.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY CINDY WILSON

TOMMY DUNN: Minutes of the May 13th meeting, we haven’t received them yet.

So we’ll be moving on to citizens comments. When Mr. Harmon calls your name, please step forward and state your name and district for the record and you’ve got three minutes. First go round is on agenda items only, please.

Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, the first speaker is Pastor Dave Neal.

DAVE NEAL: Good evening. Appreciate the time to be able to come again and just speak to you in regards to the tiny home issue. I know we’ve had a meeting with our Planning Commission the other night and we came out in a pretty large number there and let our Planning Commission know what was going on.

And just still want to come back and appeal to the County Council here that our community is still very much concerned about this. We want to let you know that there’s over five hundred signatures that are basically standing behind -- or standing against this. Two businesses in the area, the RV business down there on 29, also Mr. James who owns Colony trailer park is very concerned and opposes this. My local church also opposes this. Our county deputies, many of them have spoken to me about it, and are greatly concerned about events that they foresee happening there. Our own council representative, Ms. Floyd, is greatly concerned and opposes this.

Our Planning Commission, ten days ago, they got word about our community being concerned about it and I think it sort of set them on their heels a little bit in the sense that they didn’t realize there was such a public
outcry about it. And they didn’t know that we had no
idea about it. And because of that they were concerned
themselves. And I appreciated their wisdom in holding
off on this issue, as well, because they didn’t realize
that we didn’t know anything about it.

And so we, of course, are still opposing this. This
is not going to be an opportunity zoned for development.
We believe it’s going to take our community backward. I
don’t think that those that want development in our
community wanted this type of development because it’s
not. And it’s going to create all kinds of problems
there. There’s already a very large amount of traffic
on 29 South. Numerous accidents have happened in front
of my local church. And I want to try to do everything
I can to prevent that. We have issues with people
coming through the area walking and vagrancy. And I can
see this happening even more so.

We want improvement for our neighborhood. This is
not going to improve us at all. And it’s only going to
be just a mess in our neighborhood.

You know, the scriptures says you have not because
you ask not. We’ve asked the Lord about this and now
we’re asking you for some help, too. And I don’t know
how much you can do to help us, but this is not what our
community wants. And I don’t believe it’s what our
community needs.

So just want to throw that salt out there and let
you know how we feel about it. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Don King.

DON KING: The first thing I’d like
to do is I’d like to thank the law enforcement people in
my country that have been taking care of me all these
years and to let them know that I’m sorry that they’re
getting slandered right now.

The next thing I want to talk about is the RV park.
Now, let’s face it. We all here know the truth. This
is nothing but a future slum. What it’ll be to start
off with, be a little bit shiny. Then it’s going to
become a slum. Two to three hundred yards from my home
is going to be a place where there’s going to be drugs.
There’s going to be crime. There’s going to be
everything else. They’re not even going to pave the
roads over there. It doesn’t take anybody with any
intelligence at all to know that this is not good for
Homeland Park. We’re already the poorest district in
this state. We don’t need more problems like this. All
it does is cut down on our property values and mess us
all up.

And I’ve got to say, I’m ashamed of this county
council for telling me that they didn’t know this happened. This happened on y’all’s watch. And we don’t want it. Down to almost the very single person in this neighborhood, we don’t want it. We know what it’s going to bring. We’re already fighting crime in our neighborhood. We want it stopped. We want you to use every power you have; legal, fair and unfair, whatever you have to do to stop this. We don’t want it.

It’s not going to hurt the city. That’s why it’s all the way down this far and not up in the city. It’s going to hurt Homeland Park. We hardly ever get represented. We know it. We pay attention to it. We don’t get the funding. Other places get the funding. We’re not even asking for that. All we’re asking for is to use every power that you have to stop this from happening to us. That’s all we’re asking.

TOMMY DUNN: Next.
LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, next speaker is Chad West.

CHAD WEST: My name is Chad West. I live actually right behind the church which is right across the street from this proposed RV park. And obviously I am against it. I think it was horribly misrepresented to you guys when it was originally brought to you. I think in some ways you were intentionally even mislead even by calling it tiny homes. It makes it seem a whole lot better than it truly actually is. These are not built to very high standards. They’re not meant for permanent residency. The gravel roads. The list goes on and on as we find out more about it.

Obviously I would say most of us are not against development. When Senator Tim Scott and President Trump promoted these opportunity zones, it was to enhance the communities. And I don’t think either one of them would be for this for an opportunity zone. I don’t think an RV park enhances Homeland Park at all. And we would love good and right development in our area, so why should we have to settle for something that’s obviously sub par in that category.

I was at the Planning Committee meeting, as many other people were, that lasted quite a few hours. But gentlemen, I was happy to be there. People got their say. I found out, hey, a lot of these other people got mailers that told them what was going on. There was websites that were specifically designed so they could know what was going on. People sent out surveys to them to ask them, hey, how can we enhance your community? We didn’t get any of that since it was an unzoned property.

And you know what, I don’t think they wanted to ask
us because they already knew what the answer would be.
It seems a little bit sneaky in my aspect, seems a
little shady.
Homeland Park does not need or want this
development, but obviously we need your help. I believe
you were mislead. I believe in some ways you were even
deceived by the developers. But I still believe that
you can make this right for your community. We want you
to obviously fight for us because in some ways we
deserve much better than this. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Josh
Smith. Next speaker is Chandler Reed.

CHANDLER REED: Good evening, ladies and
gentlemen. Chandler Reed, I’m in District 5 just
outside of Homeland Park. And I’m here about the tiny
homes.
We don’t need this in the community. Period. We
have seventy-seven properties in District 2 alone that
fall under Homeland Park that are abandoned and
condemned that we need out of there. We don’t need
another problem in the community. This was sold in a
bad way to the county council. I don’t know how y’all
didn’t see that. But fact is, it’s here; we need to get
it changed. Plain and simple. They don’t know what
they’re doing HUD standards, they don’t know what
they’re doing RV standards. They call it a RV park, but
it’s going to be a mobile home park. That’s the last
thing Homeland Park needs. When is the last time
anybody there has gone through Homeland Park and checked
out the scene?
I live over that way. We’re trying to clean it up.
We don’t need trash in there. This development is not
going to help our cause. We’re here to speak up and
show you that Homeland Park is not going to be silent
anymore. We’re here and we’re growing every day with
numbers and support.
So I’m begging you to please help us and fight this,
turn it around, stop it. We’re not asking for money
from you. We just want your support in passing some
policies. We’re going to come after the abandoned
properties. We’re going to get rid of all the other
drugs and everything in the community. We just want
your help. All right?
And I didn’t get anything in the mail on this.
There are other folks. We didn’t know anything about
it. The only thing we were told, it was ran in the
newspaper. Who gets Anderson Independent in here? I
don’t think anybody gets that paper any more. That’s
how it was run. That’s old antiquated technology. It
was twenty years ago that people would read the paper for that stuff. We need a new way to get information out to the community; website, emails, something.

Thank you for your time.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Randall Jameson.

RANDALL JAMESON: Thank you, guys, for the opportunity to speak. I’m talking about the RVs, the RV park.

I contacted the LLR in Columbia and I told them what was happening down here and I asked them how these units could be classified as permit dwellings? Okay. I got a letter back from them that says that if these units are not built to HUD standards, which they’re not, they’re six hundred and fifty square foot -- and they’re not I- Codes, which are homes built onsite, which they’re not, they cannot be considered either of those. They’re classified as RVs because they’re built to the RVIA standards.

Now, I talked to Bill Stevens today at Building and Codes. And I asked him, I said, can you live in an RV full time? He said in Anderson County you cannot live in an RV full time. So unless y’all have changed that policy, if these are classified as RVs, they cannot be permanent dwellings, unless y’all go and make an amendment. I asked him -- they’re ten foot wide. I own an RV. I take it everywhere. These are ten foot wide. I’ve never pulled anything ten foot wide. I said do you have to have a special permit to pull something ten foot wide? He said yes you do. And if it’s built off-site and out of our state, there’s all kinds of stuff they have to go through to get them in here. Okay?

I said well how about tiny homes? He said the only tiny homes that they have approved at Building and Codes are tiny homes that are built on-site. And they go out and do the footer inspections, all the inspections. Okay.

Now, Mr. Smart, at one of our meetings said that these homes were being supplied by Clayton Homes. They don’t know anything about it. Clayton Homes denies knowing anything about these little units. I also asked at the Planning Commission -- which by the way I was there six hours -- I asked, what kind of power are these things going to have? If it’s an RV park, they’re got a little fifty amp pedestal down there. If they are a mobile home park they’re going to have a two hundred amp metered unit. No answer.

At the last meeting you guys said y’all were going to define tonight what an RV or what a tiny home is. I
don’t see the man over there that’s supposed to answer
that question tonight, but I hope that y’all define
tonight what is a tiny home. Okay. Because what
they’re trying to sell us doesn’t sound like a permanent
dwelling. By the way, Mr. Smart said if you’ve got a
two bedroom, you’ve got two of these units, you could
rent one of the bedrooms out to help pay the rent. I
thought these were single family dwellings.

So I think we need more information. Thank you very
much.

LEON HARMON:  Next speaker is Randy
Jones.

RANDY JONES:  Thank you for letting me
speak today. My name is Randy Jones. I’m from Cindy
Wilson’s District 7. I’m here to just speak in support
of the Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance. I’m the
Anderson County Leader for South Carolina Carry. We
have active members across the state and we’re doing
things to try to support Second Amendment protection and
stuff. I’m also a member of the Belton Gun Club, which
has over a thousand members, and we do a lot of things
that are bringing a lot of stuff into Anderson County.
So these are very important things for both of these
groups.

The recent events that we’ve seen play out here
recently across our country reinforce the need for
Anderson County to pass this ordinance. We need for
Anderson County to be a Second Amendment sanctuary
county.

When civil disobedience is allowed to destroy
people’s businesses and disrupt our cities, we must have
our Second Amendment rights intact in order to -- for
the citizens to defend their families and their
businesses. We have a great Sheriff that supports this
ordinance and we need for the council to approve this
ordinance so that we may protect our Anderson County
rights for the Second Amendment protection going
forward.

I hope that we’ll have a hundred percent of all the
council members to support this going forward. Thank
you.

TOMMY DUNN:  Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON:  Next speaker is Shawn
Falkner.

SHAWN FALKNER:   Mr. Chairman, council
members, my name is Shawn Falkner. I’m a resident of
Anderson County. I also represent the developer of the
tiny home park that’s being discussed here with the
moratorium.

I just wanted to come and speak on behalf of the
owner against the moratorium that you guys are looking at trying to pass. I can tell you that there’s been no deceit by the developer of that property. I have the application here and it clearly says the park was being developed -- excuse me -- the park will consist of park model RVs. They are unique trailer type RVs. They’re built on a single chassis, mounted-on wheels. Have gross trailer area not exceeding four hundred square feet. Certified by the manufacturers as complying with the ANSI A119.5 standard for recreational park trailers. And their proposed use will be used to address Anderson County’s affordable housing shortage.

This is the application that was submitted back in October of last year where the Planning Commission approved the development of that RV park, four to two. This park has been through permitting with the county. It’s to the point where we’re ready to issue permits. It’s going to be owned by these developers for a long term under the opportunity zone requirements. It’s going to be a high quality park. And these units will be rented on a temporary basis to provide affordable workforce housing for the people that work in this county.

There’s been no deceit here. It’s gone through the permitting process with the county. It’s located in an unzoned area of the county. County council really doesn’t have any jurisdiction to govern the use of that property. The land management ordinances are in place to ensure that whatever is developed on the property is developed in accordance with the standards, the setbacks, the road requirements, the utilities, and all that sort of thing, which this clearly complies with.

And while it’s unpopular, the landowner has the right to use his property for an RV park. It’s in an unzoned area of the county. And if those citizens in that part of the county wanted the county council to regulate the use then they should have subjected that part of the county to the Zoning Ordinance, which they did not. It’s consistent with the Comprehensive Plan that the county has adopted for that area for residential use.

I just urge this council to deny the moratorium. The county council has a process in place to adopt regulations for use of these type of things and that’s the route they ought to go and not just put a halt on everything. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Allison Phillips.

ALLISON PHILLIPS: Hello, I’m Allison
Phillips. I was born and reared in Anderson County, but I am a resident now of Abbeville County. However, I own a business in Homeland Park. I’m also the Vice President of Homeland Park Community Watch. We have a lot of members and a lot of members that work and are not able to come to this meeting or other meetings that we represent. We also have a lot of members that are elderly and choose to not come because they don’t want to get out in this virus or in -- at night. So I’m representing -- speaking on their behalf, too.

After reviewing the land use review that was submitted in November for the Planning Commission and the one that was also submitted for the June 9th Planning Commission meeting, which I did attend, and I was midnight getting home, too. But I will tell you that some of the things on this land use review really aren’t exactly as they seem. The nice gentleman came and told you, but I would like to let you know that PAWS, the county building PAWS, is the neighbor that they reviewed to see if this is going to adversely affect the neighbors, the adjacent properties. And that is the number (b) on land use review attachment (a). Why does a big developer with plenty of money like this, why are they not able to canvas the neighborhood that they’re going to be adjacent to, as Ms. Matthews is going to speak -- address council a little bit later. Why did they ask a county employee? And number two, what business does a county employee have making a decision or adding to a decision for property? They may live in Belton. They may live in Greenville, Hartwell, Georgia; who knows? They might not live down in Homeland Park.

But guess what, people who reside in Homeland Park, they’re good people. They’re hardworking people and they have lived -- he wants to -- he says he’s going to stay there a long term commitment. A long term commitment to him is ten years. Let me tell you what long term commitment is in Homeland Park. We’ve got people that have lived there seventy years. Seventy years and more. That’s a long term commitment. They’re concerned about their property values. They can’t afford to go anywhere else. And they don’t want crime to increase. We have worked the hard -- I mean we have worked really hard. Mr. Dunn and Ms. Gracie are well aware of how long we -- how far we’ve worked to try to decrease our crime rate. Okay. We’re going to need more police protection with a hundred more residences. Our fire department, as y’all know fire departments in the county are divvied up the same amount of money. Okay. Well, our fire department, Homeland Park Fire
Department, runs ---

LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

ALLISON PHILLIPS: --- over six hundred calls a year for the same amount of money that a little lazy little sleepy fire department ---

TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate it. That’ll be time. Thank you.

ALLISON PHILLIPS: Okay. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

Moving on now to agenda item number 5, Cherokee Farms Community. Ms. Mathews.

DONNA MATHEWS: Hi, my name is Donna Mathews, and I’m here to represent my community, to proudly represent my community. I did not catch the gentleman’s name that just spoke on behalf of the developer, but I would like to let him know that I don’t know who made the decision that we needed affordable housing for manufacturers. We have housing in our area, in our district. And if we do need housing, why does our district get the mobile RV park -- we’re not even sure what they are. Is it a RV park? Is it a mobile home? Is it a tiny home? Because from what we understand, they fit the criteria of all three. But we as a community do not want this in our neighborhood. This property is not only going to be in my community. This is going to be in my backyard. No one came to my door and asked me how this was going to affect my neighborhood. This is going to destroy my property value and the property values of my neighbors, of my friends, of my family.

And then he made a statement that this thing started last year and no one objected to this in the Planning and Development meeting we had last week. It’s because no one knew. If this was all legal and binding and everything was how it should be, then why was our community silent? The other communities that was in building and planning all received things in the mail. They are well aware of new development that’s coming to their area. Why is Homeland Park not on that list? I understand the property is unzoned. But that needs to be changed. Whether a property is zoned or unzoned, that should not determine whether or not the community is made fully aware of it and that their voices are heard and not silenced.

From what I understand, this is a development for wealthy investors. And they want to come in, invest some money into this property and stay ten years. They
don’t even have to stay ten years. They can stay five years. They not only double their money, but they get huge tax breaks. This information, if it’s wrong, came from Senator Scott’s office that I started speaking with in February.

Also, this was reported in the newspaper in February. It’s the first time any of us had heard of it, which conveniently was also after the thirty-day appeal time that we had. So nothing was said until all of that was already approved, our appeal time was up, then they let us know that this wonderful community was coming to our neighborhood. A hundred houses. From what I understand it’s only going to be used fifteen acres of the seventy-two, seventy-three acres that they bought because the rest is low plane or unuseable. Already from the topo, they’re already having problems with storm drainage. They’re going to have problems with sewer. I’ve also been told that Homeland Park Water has denied them. So is that not a done issue at this point? If county council cannot help us and go back on the approval decision that they’ve made, where do we go from here? As our county council leaders, as a community, where do we go from here?

We do not want this in our community. The developer may want it. The building may want it. We still don’t know who’s in charge, who’s the lead person pushing this. But as a community, none of us want it in our community. And we beg you to find a way to go back and remove this decision to allow this to come, as is, to our neighborhood. We don’t need gravel roads and RVs and temporary housing. Which is it temporary housing or permanent housing? Because we’ve been told both. We’ve been told several things, and we can’t get all the straight answers on none of the questions that we’ve asked since February.

So again, I beg you to please go back, speak with the county council lawyer, speak with whoever we -- tell us who to go to. Just help us to stop this development from coming to our community.

Thank you for your time. Please reconsider.

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to item number agenda 6, Ms. Floyd. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. We’re in a mess. We’ve in a mess. Nationally they’re fighting for the nation. So many different things. Locally we’re fighting for our houses, our homes, our neighborhoods. How did we get this far? What happened? I think you know what happened.

In November, November the 16th, a meeting was held. Nobody knew about the meeting but the people who are
proponents of the tiny houses and the Planning Committee. I didn’t know about it. No one called me to tell me about it. Nobody called me to ask me why I wasn’t there.

And I had a very, very happy Thanksgiving and a merry Christmas. January I was getting ready to celebrate the new year and up comes February and I get this phone call from a friend of mine who says what do you think about those tiny houses coming over there in Homeland Park? And I said Homeland Park? As much as I am in Homeland Park, I didn’t hear about any tiny houses. So I tell them I don’t know a thing about it. He said the newspaper. What paper? Well, the Anderson Independent. Well, I get the State newspaper and I get the Greenville News because combined they have everything that the Anderson Independent is supposed to have. I’ve got some nasty comments from some nasty people about what they believe. But I didn’t care what they believe, because I never heard a thing about it until February.

After I heard about it, a lady called me on the phone and she wanted to talk to me about it. And we talked. She told me everything she knew, which was almost as much as mine. And I told her what I knew, which was really nothing. And then we started working together. We decided we were going to act as a team and we were going to look at this thing together.

And sure enough, sure enough, they were planning on doing tiny homes. What are tiny homes? They are little houses that’s supposed to been one bedroom back then in February at a total of three hundred and eighty-two dollars. That’s what they were going to cost for rent. And they told me that it was going to be for people who were working up at Electrolux and those buildings around there, those companies around there. That’s what they were going to be for.

Then they told me that it was going to be fine. They had already gotten approval from the Planning Committee. Approval from the Planning Committee on the first time they went down there, they submitted their papers and they got approval right then and there from the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee did not go out and look at it. They didn’t go out and talk to the people. They said well we put up a sign. Anybody out there saw that sign? Nobody can remember a sign being put up for that.

I did some more research and I found out that these are money coming in from capital gain. Okay. The thing was this -- it’s like this, if you’ve got ten thousand dollars or if you’ve got fifty thousand. Let’s say you
have fifty thousand dollars and you get together with
some more people who has fifty thousand dollars and
y’all put it up and you’re going to buy you a piece of
land and you said you’re going to do this and you’re
going to hold it for ten thousand and you’ll just build
some tiny houses on it for fifty thousand dollars. If
you can hold on to that for ten years you get a hundred
thousand dollars. And then you sell it and you move on
to somewhere else.

Folks, this isn’t fair. It’s just downright out not
fair. Think about it for a moment. Think about where
you live right now. Think about where you live. Would
you want that down the street from you? Would you want
that in your backyard? Would you want your mother to
live around a place like that? No. You wouldn’t. So
why bring it here?

All right. They brought it here to us because they
have to -- they go by census tracts. And you know
they’ve got all these beautiful words. Nobody knows
what they mean anyway. But they have census tract and
they have to choose some census tract. So they call it
depressed areas. In other words, no income poor people.
Okay. They have to get these census tracts to give them
the land so they can go and put these whatever it is on
there. I think you can put other things besides tiny
houses, but that was easiest to do so that’s what they
did. That’s what they did.

They pick one. But you’ve heard us talk about tiny
houses for a while now. But did you know there were
four of them? Did you know there are four of them? Did
you know we were the first one, first one ever in
Anderson? Did you know there’s one on Main Street
coming off of Whitner Street? Did you know there’s
going to be one in Homeland Park? Did you know there’s
one out to the airport? Did you know there’s one -- did
I say Belton Highway? And now we have the one out there
on Cherokee Farms. We’re not the only one. We’re not
the only one.

There are four. Four. They snuck this one in on
us. I didn’t know about it. I don’t care what you say,
I did not know about it. And if I had you know I would
have done something. Did you know they’re all at the
bottom of Anderson County? Did you know that 81 is
safe? There’s nothing that’s going up there? Did you
know that all of the communities that this is going on
are unzoned because they didn’t want zoning, number one.
Number two, they had lived there, some of them, forty
and fifty years, never had zoning, never had any
problems, why did they think they need zoning? This is
wrong, folks. This is wrong.
The only two district I can see is District 5 is going to have some and District 2. Oh, you’re not out of it yet. A little bit of District 1, you’ve got some coming too. Yeah. So how will your people feel when they wake up in the morning and they find out they’re going to have some kind of something built behind them? How are they going to feel about that? I mean it’s good enough for District 2. Why isn’t it good enough for District 1 and District 5? Nobody’s doing anything about it. Now they tell us it’s too late. Too late to do what? It was too late when the idea came up. Where did this idea come? It came from -- is his name Tim Smith? Who? But anyway, it comes from the Republican Tim Scott, backed by Republican people, and Booker. And why are they doing this? Because somebody got too much money and don’t know what to do with it, so why not let’s just take it from the poor people or the depressed people or just older citizens who have worked hard for everything they have and have this come.

In ten years, what do you think it’s going to be in ten years? After it has been lived in ten years, y’all, what do you think it’s going to be? A nice retirement community? No. It’s not going to be that. Do they care that your mother is living out there? No. Do they care that you’ve got children living out there? No. No.

There are no houses shortages in Anderson County. And they said this, they said we’re going to build these for nurses and teachers. Yeah. Uh-huh (affirmative). Uh-huh (affirmative). That’s what they’re building it for. Come on. And the companies that they’re going to build it for, Bosch, Michelin, Milliken, Electrolux, Anderson Memorial Hospital for nurses, Arthrex. Arthrex, that’s that big place in Pendleton that they built those fifty -- that they got fifty percent money from the county to build these luxury apartments. But they’re going to build them for Arthrex, too. Okay. And they’re going to build it for the government. Government who? And oh, it’s only going to cost three hundred and eighty-seven dollars. That was back in February. But now it’s going to cost eight hundred and some odd dollars a month for two bedrooms when they only said they’re going to have one bedroom. But now they’re going to have two beds. Who’s the second bedroom for?

People, I love Anderson County. I love our government in Anderson County. But just like any other government, Lord have mercy, you’ve got to keep up with what’s going on. You’ve got -- you cannot skip these meetings. You cannot just listen to the radio. You have to keep your eyes open and you have to be in those
seats out there. Because if you don’t -- that’s what
you’ve got to do. And we haven’t been doing that. We
haven’t been doing that. But we’re doing it now. We’re
doing it now.

How can the Planning Commission have approved
something like this without asking anybody, without
checking behind anybody. And the Planning Commission
told me, oh, we already got the water thing signed. No.
No. According to the Homeland Park Water Commission,
they do not. They said we are not going to give water.
We are not going to give sewer. Okay. So what’s going
to happen now? Okay. We’re going to go to the Electric
City Water Company. Fine. You can get water from them,
but you can’t get sewer. Now what? Now what?

So what do we need to do? We need to back it up and
we need to start over again. Lawsuit. Lawsuit. Here
they come with the lawsuit. They’re going to sue --
well, we’ll just sue you. Sue us for what? Who told
you to go ahead and spend a million dollar, as they told
me? But we’ve already spent a million dollars on this.
Well, that’s just tough. That’s just tough. Nobody
told you. Broadway Water said that they didn’t get --
they didn’t sign anything. So who told you to go spend
that million dollars? That’s just tough. That’s called
a business loss. Isn’t that called a business loss that
you can get a whole bunch of money off your income tax
for? Isn’t that right? Yeah. Yeah. It’s wrong. It’s
wrong. It’s not right.

Who’s behind this? It’s easy. Somebody with fifty
thousand dollars. Somebody who’s got deep pockets.
Somebody who’s trying to hide their money. Okay. Whose
bet are they on? Yours. Yours. I’m not out of danger.
I live off the Belton Highway. When I saw this map here
the other day and saw Belton Highway on it, hey, hey,
hey. All right. Some of you sat around and watched and
laughed and ignored and found other things to talk
about. But I bet you’re going to be talking about this
after a while because all of Anderson County at the
bottom part down here is going to be this. And when
they get through doing these four tracts, you know what
they’re going to do, Brett? They’re going to come up to
your place and find something. They’re doing it in
Greenville.

We’re not ready, folks. We’re not ready. I’m
asking the county council to please vote no. That
moratorium is coming up, which will give us some time to
look at this thing again. Please vote for the
moratorium. Don’t do this to us. Don’t do it to us.
District 2 didn’t do it to you when you were trying to
fight the service station on Liberty Highway. We stood
with you because it was the right thing to do. When you
were trying to get things out of your community,
District 2 stood with you because District 2 believes in
the hardworking people. That’s what we believe in. So
we try to protect our communities. We try to help all
people. We don’t hurt them. We don’t go behind their
backs and steal their communities from them. Next thing
I know they’ll be coming after your houses.

This isn’t easy. This is not easy. Mrs. Mathews
can tell you how many times we’ve been on the telephone
in the last two months. She’s neglected her job. I
have other things that’s going on in the county. I’m
trying to get -- is that grant six hundred and fifty
million, Mr. Burns?

RUSTY BURNS: Which grant?

GRACIE FLOYD: The one for Homeland
Park.

RUSTY BURNS: Which grant are you
talking about? Is the one you’re talking about the
housing demolition?

GRACIE FLOYD: That’s it. Nope, the one
that we’re trying to apply to get for Homeland Park that
will help us clean up the community, knock down some
houses and bring some peace down to Homeland Park.

RUSTY BURNS: That’s a Community
Development Block Grant. It’s around five hundred
thousand dollars.

GRACIE FLOYD: Five hundred thousand
dollars. Okay. I wish it was six fifty, but you can
dream. But I’m trying to get a grant for that. We’re
doing a lot here. But we have to be distracted by
people who don’t even live here among us who’s coming to
take all we have. Our community.

And I’m tired. I know everything I need to know
about capital gains taxes. I’ll never have enough money
to get involved with that. You won’t either. You won’t
either. But somebody from Texas or somebody from
somewhere else. Even somebody from this town right here
will have enough money to take what you’re already got.

And I’m tire. Lord, I pray for this to be over
with. Lord, I pray for a break. Please, God, we can’t
take much more of this. Leave us, leave us alone. Let
us have our community. Let us have -- and they said
something about PAWS. PAWS welcomed them. That’s not
what PAWS told me. That’s not what PAWS said to me.

So many misunderstanding. Did I tell you at the
beginning that I heard it was going to be a home for
homeless people, at the beginning? Yeah, we heard that.
We heard that. But county council, this man back here
said that the county doesn’t have anything to do with it.
because we’re not zoned. That’s not fair. That’s not
fair. So we are not zoned, what does that mean? We’re
bad people. That we are depressed poor people? Some of
those people out there got more money than some of you
sitting in here. Because they have bought their home.
They have paid for their home. They have stayed at
their home. They have fixed their houses up. They’re
not that depressed.

But what we need now is for folks to stand up with
us and say to county council and Anderson County, no, I
don’t care what kind of deal you have made. I don’t
care who came here and talked to whom about what. All I
know is that people are fighting to save what they have.
How big it is or how little it is. That’s all I know.

And my name is Gracie Floyd. I have told you ---

AUDIENCE: You need your mic.

GRACIE FLOYD: Are you sure?

AUDIENCE: Yeah.

GRACIE FLOYD: My name is Gracie Floyd.

I’ve told you what I told. Told you what I’ve heard.
Told you what I want. And that’s my story and I’m gonna
stick to it. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on now to item
Cleanup.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. I got a -- I
received a letter from Duke Power and it upset me
something terrible. Can you hear me now? It upset me
something terrible. Because Duke Power said they were
going to kill some foliage. It was sent to county
council members. Did you all get a letter like that?
Okay. Duke Power said they were going to kill up some
foliage. You know, that’s just brushes and weeds and
stuff. That’s the brushes and the weeds and stuff. And
they’re going to do it by helicopter. Helicopter? You
mean like Agent Orange? And you mean like Roundup? Did
you ever think that while you were spraying that Roundup
that you were going to have to worry about cancer? But
you mean like Roundup? Uh-uh (negative), no, no, no,
no. I don’t understand this.

So I called Mr. Burns and -- that night when I got
the thing I called Mr. Burns and I told him that I
didn’t understand it. And we need to go to the people
about this and let them know. Mr. Burns agreed with me
and the next morning I got a telephone call -- a sweet
little phone call from Emily. I don’t know Emily’s last
name, but she works for Duke Power. And she explained
it to me and I thought it would be a good idea if she
explained it to you.
EMILY ROBERTS: Thank you so much. Mr. Chairman and other council members, Mr. Burns, Mr. Harmon, thank you for having us here this evening. And you will forgive me, I am not a good public speaker so I have to read. So please, I’m asking your forgiveness. And I beg y’all’s forgiveness for having to see my best side. Thank you.

I am Emily Roberts. I’m the government and community relations manager representing Duke Energy in the Anderson area. I’m also an Anderson County resident in District 6 in Mr. Davis’s district. At the request of Councilwoman Floyd, I am here with two of my colleagues who are subject matter experts to answer your questions about the aerial herbicide application that has been going on around transmission lines in the northern part of Anderson County.

First I will introduce Bill Rings back there in the back who has enjoyed a thirty-four year career at Duke Energy with twelve years in his current role as a regional vegetation management specialist. And he manages all the herbicide activities for transmission, vegetable groups in the Western Carolinas. He also oversees substations like mowing and all the aerial soil and area spray operations for Duke Energy. He holds licenses in North Carolina and South Carolina as a pesticide applicator and also is a certified arborist with a concentration on utilities. So he knows his stuff.

With him is John Reeves, the gentleman behind me, who works with Industrial Aviation, a company with forty-eight years of specializing in aerial application of herbicides to utility right-of-ways throughout the United States.

So now more than ever a reliable electric system is essential to meeting our customers’ energy needs. Duke Energy is working hard to build and maintain a grid that is smarter, more resilient and ready to safely deliver reliable and increasingly clean energy. We deliver on this commitment by keeping the lines that transmit electricity free from trees and other vegetation. While trees are part of the natural beauty of the region, they’re also the leading cause of power outages and power quality issues. Vegetation near power lines can also present a potential safety threat for utility crews and the public. Managing vegetable along power lines and in its rights-of-way is an effective way to improve reliability for the customers who depend on us.

One method that we use to maintain vegetation is aerial application of herbicides to control plant
growth. A few weeks ago helicopter crews began applying herbicides to our high voltage transmission lines in the northern part of Anderson County. And I do have some maps, Mr. Reeves does, that I would be glad to show to you. The transmission line goes through Pelzer up through the northern part of Powdersville. All of this is urban areas, as you will be able to see from the map. Anyone familiar with Duke Energy knows that the safety of our customers, our communities and our employees is our primary goal. Applying herbicides from the air is safer and more effective and an alternative to sending crews on foot with backpack sprayers tromping around in unsure footing, in mountainous terrain or hard to access areas. Aerial maintenance applications can be completed much more quickly than manual spraying and reduces the crew exposure to physical hazards in the right-of-way environment.

Before the project began, Duke Energy performed a thorough environmental assessment of the areas to be sprayed. We evaluated sensitive environmental resources such as endangered species habitat, wetlands, as well as cultural resources. And we omitted potential sensitive areas from the targeted application sites. We use a specially trained vegetation maintenance crew to apply approved herbicides in an environmentally responsible manner. All products have been approved and registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency following rigorous toxicological -- that’s a big college word right there, toxicological -- environmental and chemical testing. All applications are performed under the supervision of a licensed applicator.

My peers, the other district managers in the Carolinas, began proactive communications with all of their counties at the same time I reached out to Anderson County. It just so happened that the project began here first immediately thereafter and has since been completed. We are finished in Anderson County. We have received no calls or complaints from the public regarding the project from either the dedicated vegetation management hotline or the general call center.

That’s what I have to say. What questions do you have to ask?

TOMMY DUNN: Appreciate it, Ms. Roberts. Appreciate you coming out tonight.

EMILY ROBERTS: Thank you so much.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you so much.

We’re going to be moving on to item number 8, third reading, be 8(a), 2020-006, an ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone plus or minus 50.26 acres from R-20
single family residential to R-A residential agriculture
at 1061 Asbury Park Road. Tax map number is 045-00-04-009. Be third reading. Do we have a motion to move
this forward?

CINDY WILSON: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson. Do we
have a second.

JIMMY DAVIS: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second by Mr. Davis. Any
discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion
show of hands. All opposed. I didn’t catch that, Ms.
Floyd. Are you in favor or you abstain or -- for, okay.
Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on now to item number 9, second reading,
9(a), 2020-008. Chairman Graham. Chairman.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Mr. Chairman, this is in reference to an ordinance
to amend the Code of Ordinances, Anderson County, South
Carolina, by adding Article X to Chapter 42 titled
Second Amendment Protection. This is the second reading
on this. And I bring this in the form of a motion, Mr.
Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion coming
from Mr. Graham. Do we have a second?
CINDY WILSON: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second by Ms. Wilson.

Now discussion. I’d just like to say again, echo my
comments from the first reading at the last meeting.
Appreciate all the hard work the committee done and our
council members, the sheriff, our attorney, and the
citizens for them taking time to be a part of this. And
I think they done an excellent job. Anyone else? All
in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like
sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Thank you, again, Mr. Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to item number
9(b), 2020-009, an ordinance authorizing the execution
and delivery of certain agreements by and between
Anderson County, South Carolina, and Company A and
Company B whereby, under certain conditions, said
companies will acquire, by construction and purchase,
certain property in Anderson County and create certain
jobs in Anderson County and will execute amendments to
certain fee in lieu of tax agreements and special source
revenue agreements and provide certain economic
development inducements to Company A and Company B and
an additional sponsor affiliate and enact certain
further legislation for said companies, Project MIT,
involving an expected nine million -- nine and a half
million in total investment and the creation of an
expected fifty new jobs in the county.

Mr. Nelson, do you have anything to add to this?

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr.
Chairman, and members of council. This is an existing
company investing nine and a half million dollars and
you said fifty new jobs, adding a new annual payroll of
1.7 million dollars to Anderson County. They already
currently have a hundred employees. And they’re up-to-
date with their taxes. They’re up-to-date with all the
commitments they’ve made with their other fee
agreements. Thirty years of property tax from this
company will total 3.4 million dollars. The first year
community impact is 4.1 million dollars. And over
twenty years, the community impact is almost twenty
million dollars for this project.

Of course, this project comes to council with a
recommendation from the Economic Development Advisory
Board and from the staff. Thank you, sir.

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

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Sanders.

Second Ms. Wilson. Now discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burriss, I think we
all know what this is and all of that. But just to
satisfy an old lady, me, would you just tell the people
what this is in layman’s terms, in just plain old every
day talk.

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma’am. This is an
expansion of one of our existing industries. It’s a
family company that’s been here for over twenty-five
years. They’ve got a great history, a great reputation.
Family lineage; father, son. Family has done a great
job. They’re expanding with 9.5 million dollar eighty
thousand square foot expansion to their building.
Adding jobs, good high quality jobs, paying a little
over seventeen dollars an hour. And new annual payroll
will be about 1.7 million.

GRACIE FLOYD: Good job.

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

Thank you.

BURRISS NELSON: Thank you for your
support.

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on to Item number
9(c), 2020-011, an ordinance declaring a moratorium for
six months on the issuance of approvals of development 
permits for recreational vehicles parks and tiny home 
subdivisions in Anderson County to allow for development 
of revised standards. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. 
I wanted to read something that I got in the mail. 
Do you have your copy? May I have it please? Would you 
get this over here, please?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is this what you’re 
talking about?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I think every 
council person have one. I’m not sure about this. I 
don’t know if you got one or not, but I want the people 
to see this.

Why would you allow park models to be used in a 
development for permanent residence? Big ole question 
mark. The manufacturer of -- I don’t know if I can say 
the names. I’ll leave the names out. You want the 
names see me later. The manufacturer of this model and 
the NAI Furman Company are getting over on Anderson 
County by not providing their officials all the facts. 
This is a letter sent to me. Did all y’all get one? 
Good. Thank you.

Well, let’s start with these. The manufacturers of 
this unit certify that it is a park model recreational 
vehicle designed only for recreational use and not for 
use as a primary residence or for permanent occupancy. 
Park models also known as recreational park trailers 
definition and its use. And I’m not going to go through 
all of this because I think there was a person out there 
that -- there he is back there. He’s already gone over 
this. And I’m not going to do the next page. But the 
industry association supports policies that treat park 
model RVs the same as any other RV, including defining 
park models RV as a type of RV in all states. He went 
over that, did he not? He went over that.

I’m asking -- we are asking for a moratorium on this 
which is a way of giving us more time. We need to go 
back over this. The Planning Committee should go back 
out there this time and take a look at what’s going on. 
We need to talk about the water. Do we have water out 
there? Do we have sewer out there? The water people 
ought to know, and they said no. And somebody needs to 
go and look at the colored topo. But the name of it is, 
here I go, topography and that means you need to go out 
and check the shape of the land. Do you have some part 
of it up? Do you have some part down? Do they slope 
this way? Do they slope back that way? Somebody needs 
to go out there and check that because that’s going to 
determine how the bathroom things work. Everybody knows
that everything goes downhill. You know that, don’t you? Yeah. It doesn’t go uphill; it goes downhill. So somebody needs to go out there and check that out.

Council members, I’m asking you to give us a fighting chance. Let’s take a look at this. There’s no big hurry. They’ve got ten years to make that big money and a couple of weeks to get it right, get it straight, won’t hurt anybody.

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Anyone?

I just want to address a few things.

RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman? My apology.

I do have a few things to say on this. First and foremost, and this is coming from me, but I want to include my fellow council members. I personally think we as council members have failed with this. We have failed the citizens of Anderson County and also the citizens of Homeland Park.

However, I do refuse to condemn or point fingers at our Anderson County associates. They’re merely following procedures and policies that we have put in place, such as the council members you see before you today, as well as other ones that have sat in these seats in the past. They’re merely doing their job that they were instructed to do. And for us to sit up here and criticize them not following this or them not doing that I think is an easy way out for us as council members. And I’m not going to take part in that.

I also think that many of the members of the community -- and by the way, I’m District 3. I border your community. So you’re definitely my neighbors. I know of many folks up in Homeland Park and can call many of them great friends of mine. And for us to sit back and say that we don’t have a problem would be an understatement. Because you have brought several things to light tonight and also in previous meetings.

There’s several policies that I kind of question now due to some of your comments. You know, should we be notifying a community of a development even when there is not a policy currently in place for that area? Should we be looking at possibly putting some type of policy in place for Homeland Park? That’s something you as citizens, number one, will have to commit to because with everything we do in live there’s pros and cons both way. And I’ll go ahead and tell you, there’s advantages and disadvantages with that. And as citizens in that community, you’ve got to decide which route do you want to take and you have to stand your ground and dig and dig hard.

One of the other things that was brought to light
tonight is that we did -- and again this is just on what
I’m being told in the meeting tonight -- is that we
actually took consideration from a county entity on help
making that decision. Should we have included them?
Absolutely. They’re your neighbors. They’re part of
your community. But we should have also included you
guys. We should have also included the citizens. And
just so you guys know, this is not something that just
happens overnight. Every Planning Commission meeting
there’s an agenda set. It’s sent out from the Planning
office. It’s sent to our clerk who in return forwards
it to each council member. So we are aware of what’s on
those agendas. Now how active are we pursuing when it’s
in our district, that’s strictly up to the council
member. But we are made aware of what’s going on before
the minutes -- before the meeting even takes place.
You know, there’s many things that comes across our
desk as a council member. There’s no way you’re going
to actually sit down and read every single thing and
stay abrupt to ensure that you’re truly answering to the
people on what you guys want. And I’m comfortable in
saying each council member on this stand today truly
tries to do that. I really believe that. But there’s
things that slip past us that we look back and say, uh-
oh. Maybe we should have spoken to our community to
ensure that they were made aware of it.
There’s no question there was an injustice done with
this and hopefully we can somehow make it right. But
keep in mind there’s other individuals that has tried to
develop and in the same respect are trying to invest
money, as well. So we’ve somehow got to come to a
mutual ground.
There’s a lot questions in this. And I definitely
support Ms. Floyd on moving forward with this tonight.
But I will not point fingers at our county associates
for doing what we have instructed them to do. Whether
it’s us sitting here today or whether it’s council
members in the past, they are still following their job
duties. And I will stand here every day and support
that. If we want to change that, then we’ve got to
change it by policy.
And I would encourage you to contact your council
members to truly make a stand on what that policy --
what you think it should be. Be our voice. We’re here,
literally, as a representative to each and every one of
you guys. It’s up to you to instruct us on what your
wishes are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.
JIMMY DAVIS: Are we just in discussion mode or do we have a motion on the floor? Are we just discussing before?

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd made the motion, didn’t you, Ms. Floyd?

JIMMY DAVIS: Okay.

TOMMY DUNN: Yeah, we’re in discussion.

JIMMY DAVIS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Excuse me just a minute. Mr. Harmon -- Ms. Floyd, do you make the motion to put this -- for this moratorium?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, I did.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Ms. Floyd makes the motion and who seconds it?

RAY GRAHAM: I second it.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham seconds it. So now make it official. You’ve got the motion and second. Now, Mr. Davis, discussion.

JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, I’m a little perplexed. If you’ll hang with us enough you’re going to hear me talk about the Planning Commission very shortly. But one of the things that we have is a county -- and I’ve learned this in my short time up here -- is there are ordinances in place that were passed not only by this county but by previous county councils that are guidelines and are law of the land, if you will, of how our county is governed and how it moves and how it makes decision. So these things are in place. And as times change some of these things may need to change. And we have committees that your county council representatives serve on that help form these policies, just like they do in Washington, but we’re on a much smaller scale.

One of the things that we do is we have a Planning Commission that is state mandated. Every county has a Planning Commission. And there are guidelines that are legal that agendas has to be published and made public knowledge. So each -- like Mr. Graham mentioned, each council person is given a copy of that Planning Commission agenda. I can tell you one, if you were here a couple of weeks ago, it was about almost three hundred pages long.

TOMMY DUNN: Excuse me, Mr. Davis. We’re out of time. Can I ask for ten more minutes? I make a motion to extend this ten more minutes.

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson makes the motion; Mr. Sanders seconds it. All in favor of the
motion show of hands. All opposed? Ms. Floyd, you
voting for it or ---

GRACIE FLOYD: I abstain.

TOMMY DUNN: You abstain. Show the
motion carries to extend the discussion for ten more
minutes. Mr. Sanders in favor, Mr. Davis, Mr. Dunn, Mr.
Graham, Mr. Wooten and Ms. Wilson in favor; Ms. Floyd
abstains. Mr. Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
The point I want to get to is the Planning Commission
met and the vote was -- it came down that this tiny
home, RV park, whatever you want to call it, was
approved by the Planning Commission. Several people
voted against it. Several people voted for it. The
voted for won. Okay. In an unzoned area that is a
legal thing. County council can’t go back and change
that. We cannot. I have to suffer with it in District
6, as well. Mr. Harmon can vouch for that.

So we -- what has been voted on since then was a
sewer change or something that was voted on last week
and that got denied. So I mean there’s been some votes
on it. But the overall development was voted on and
approved by the Anderson County Planning Commission.

And the only way to appeal that now is through the
Court of Appeals. And not the county. The citizens can
appeal it. So you have that right. But this was -- Mr.
Harmon, correct me if I’m wrong, this development was
approved by the Anderson County Planning Commission.

LEON HARMON: You are correct, Mr.
Davis, it was approved back in November.

JIMMY DAVIS: So, you know, we’ve got
an arduous task. So this development is approved. Now,
this moratorium that we’re talking about would be
anything going forward. It would stop that. But this
moratorium has nothing to do with what’s already been
approved. Am I correct, Mr. Harmon?

LEON HARMON: It would not because of
the Vested Right Statute that’s right in the same State
Planning Act that you’ve been referring to.

JIMMY DAVIS: So state law says if it’s
been approved in an -- if it’s been approved by the
Planning Commission, it’s approved. But the moratorium
can stop anything else from coming down the pike. And
that would give -- and I can understand, we do need to
have a hard discussion on what is the definition of a
tiny home or an RV park or whatever, and that will be
discussion in the Planning and Public Works Committee
meeting and then it will come back to council. I just
wanted to make sure we were clear on that and that
everybody understood that’s where we are in this
process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

Ms. Floyd, and then we'll go back to Ms. Wilson.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. First of all, we didn't send it back to the county council. The Planning Commission did. They did it because they didn't know what to do. They were confused because they've never had anything like this. Nobody went out there and checked what they wanted -- what the RV people were trying to say. They were trying to say they had water; they didn't. They were trying to say that the first time they missed the topo thing so they wanted to go back and amend it to include it this time. It was too many factors there that was brought out tonight. There were too many factors there to stop, take a look at it, and let's try it all over again.

You could not have passed something like that the first time in good consciousness. You couldn't do it because you knew it wasn't right. You knew it was wrong. We know what the Planning Commission is for. We've been knowing that -- well, I've been knowing that for years. But they aren't always -- they're not little demigods. They are people, flesh and blood people, that make mistakes like everybody else. And we feel that a mistake has been made. And we want a chance to rectify that mistake. We want a chance to understand because you all told us so much, so many different things. It's going to be a home for nurses, a home for teachers, and then you told us it's going to be one bedroom, then two bedrooms.

It needed to go back to the Planning Committee and fix it up. But they didn't know how to get it back to you. So that's why it came back to council. Not because we asked. We just asked them to stop a minute and look at it again, go out there this time and see what the paperwork said instead of just taking the paperwork for the first time and said, okay, you got it. That's not the way to do it.

That's what District 2 was fighting for. That's what we're fighting for now. And now we need the moratorium to give us more time to let us look at it. Let's find out about the water. Are we going to have water -- are they going to have water out there? Good. Are they going to have sewer out there? What about the topo; is that going to be fixed? There's too many variance for us to say, okay, this is fine, just because the Planning Committee said it was.
I remember when there was a home for unwed mothers that were going to be put in a community. Oh, the community didn’t want that. The community didn’t want that. They wanted to keep their neighborhood intact. We looked at it. We discussed it. And then we decided that the community was right. And we vote for it. This is all I’m asking you to do now. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson, did you have something?

CINDY WILSON: You answered my question. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead.

CRAIG WOOTEN: I guess I just had a quick question just to clarify what we’re voting on. So it’s my understanding from Mr. Davis’s comments that, you know, it passed the Planning Commission and therefore it would go to the court for appeals and the moratorium would be any future development that was referenced in the same style. Is that correct?

LEON HARMON: Mr. Wooten, that is essentially correct. The Planning Act requires that any appeal from the Planning Commission decision outside of rezoning, now, would go to the Circuit Court.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Okay. And just out of clarification, if somebody had an unzoned piece of property and they felt they had the right to do something, why would they have to go ask the Planning Commission for permission? I mean if it’s already within their ability to do it, then what is the Planning Commission approving or not approving?

LEON HARMON: Because we have land use regulations that the staff would review to make a decision. Not the staff make the decision, but present their recommendation to the Planning Commission. Then the Planning Commission makes a decision on whether that development is approved or not approved.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Per the land use regulations.

LEON HARMON: Per the land use regulations; correct.

CRAIG WOOTEN: And so the moratorium moving forward for six months would be future development and the -- and this moratorium is the correct protocol for the council for any future items to make any adjustments in defining what a tiny home or RV or anything in between is?

LEON HARMON: Correct.

CRAIG WOOTEN: Okay. Thank you, sir.
TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.
GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I didn’t understand the question. There was an echo.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten, would you mind repeating your question to Mr. Harmon?
CRAIG WOOTEN: Yes. It was just sort of simply asking what the moratorium would do ---
TOMMY DUNN: Excuse me, Mr. Wooten, I’m sorry. You still can’t hear him?
GRACIE FLOYD: There’s an echo.
JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Wooten, I think you’re going to have to get closer to your microphone.
CRAIG WOOTEN: Okay. I’m sorry. It was just a question in regards to what the moratorium would affect as opposed to what the previous vote on this particular development -- whether or not we had jurisdiction on it or whether or not it was the Court of Appeals that had jurisdiction on it, with a follow-up question of, you know, why did they have to come ask the Planning Commission for permission to begin with, in which Mr. Harmon clarified it was an interpretation of land use rules; not, you know, a zoning protocol.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wooten.
Anyone else.
GRACIE FLOYD: I don’t understand what Mr. -- I heard him. I thank you for that. But Mr. ---
TOMMY DUNN: Harmon?
GRACIE FLOYD: Is that okay? I didn’t understand Mr. Harmon’s question because, you know, honestly, I thought that once the Planning Committee heard what we had to say rebuking some of the stuff that the developer said, that they would stop right there and say, wait a minute, wait a minute. We approved this because you said this. But that’s not it? That’s not right? I really thought that the Planning Committee would take -- would listen to the side of the people who actually pay the tax bill with so many discrepancies, and they would start all over again. I never thought that they would throw it back to county council because, you know, we were there for them.
TOMMY DUNN: Let me clear up a few things that’s been said here tonight. Some misunderstandings. That’s what -- this whole thing is misunderstandings.
Number one, the other night at the Planning Commission meeting, they did not turn this project down. They were asking for another variance on a sewer thing and they denied that. Not the whole project. They can’t go back. They’ve already voted on it. This ain’t the best two out of three. I’m sorry, but that’s it.
They voted for it.

They have not sent nothing to county council. They can’t even by law. I’ve looked at this because of this issue and because of some other issues the other night about the Planning Commission not having final say on some things. State law, it’s a whole different thing how it’s set up. We can’t.

But on other issues, when it’s a zoning issue, if it’s a zone thing, an issue like Ms. Floyd was talking about a minute ago about the issue for unwed mothers in that community, they was asking for a zoning change. The Planning Commission can turn it down or approve it or what not. It’s coming to county council. We’ve got the final say. I wish we had that on other things, but we don’t.

I’m going to vote for Ms. Floyd’s thing tonight. But it’s got to pass three times. I don’t want nobody to leave here with a misunderstanding because even if we do pass this, it’s not going to hold up; it’s not going to stop this thing. But now I will promise, we’ll do everything we can. I don’t know, you might not like that, but that’s just the facts of life. I’ll work with you any way I can about finding out -- I keep hearing been misrepresented, this, that and the other, y’all call me, give the questions y’all want and we’ll sit down and have a meeting. I want y’all to have the answers.

And that’s the whole thing in life is communication. Things get turned around. There’s only so much we can do. If there’s anything we can, we will. But I don’t want nobody leaving here thinking we’ve got this. It’s turn down, what you call it. Because we can do this, we can even say it’s going to affect this thing. They’re going to go right across the street, sue, and we ain’t got a leg to stand on.

Y’all are the ones, as Mr. Harmon said, the next issue in this thing, how this whole thing is structured through state law, don’t -- the Planning Commission and even county council, you’ve got to go to Appeals Court across the road. That’s their thing.

I’m calling for the question. All in favor of Ms. Floyd’s motion, show of hands. All opposed. Abstentions. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on now to item number 11. Is that right?

There is no first readings.

We’ll go to 11(a) resolutions. Resolution 11(a), R2020-016, a resolution to approve acceptance by Anderson County, South Carolina of a portion of Big Water Road from the South Carolina Department of Transportation near the intersection with Ginn Road and
1 Highway 29. Mr. Burns.
2 RUSTY BURNS: Mr. Hogan is here to
3 answer any questions council may have.
4 TOMMY DUNN: Anybody got any questions
5 on this?
6 JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Hogan, you good?
7 MR. HOGAN: Yes.
8 TOMMY DUNN: Do we have a motion to
9 put this in effect?
10 JIMMY DAVIS: I make a motion we
11 approve ---
12 TOMMY DUNN: I think Mr. Graham has
13 already got it. It’s his district. And I think he made
14 the motion to do it. And Mr. Davis, you second?
15 JIMMY DAVIS: Second.
16 TOMMY DUNN: Now, any discussion? All
17 in favor of the motion show of hands. Show the motion
18 carries unanimously.
19 Mr. Hogan, thank you very much.
20 We’re going to move on to item number 12, road
21 acceptance into county inventory. Rivermill
22 Subdivision, Phase I and II. This is in District 6.
23 We’ve got Rivermill Place Road, Waymeet Court, Woodhall
24 Lane and Bradybuck Drive. Do we have a motion to put
25 this into the system?
26 JIMMY DAVIS: Sorry. I got ahead of
27 myself a little while ago. I make the motion we approve
28 the roads listed in the agenda in District 6 into the
29 county inventory.
30 TOMMY DUNN: Got a motion by Mr. 
31 Davis. Have a second?
32 CINDY WILSON: Second.
33 TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Sanders. Now
34 discussion? I’m sure all this meets all the county’s
35 standard ---
36 MR. HOGAN: Yes, sir.
37 TOMMY DUNN: --- no problem? Anyone
38 else have anything? All in favor of the motion show of
39 hands. All opposed like sign.
40 Show Ms. Floyd just left.
41 Moving on now to item number 12(b), Caledonia
42 Subdivision, Phase V and VI, District 6. This is Shale
43 Drive, Caledonia Drive and Granite Drive. Do we have a
44 motion to add this?
45 JIMMY DAVIS: So moved.
46 TOMMY DUNN: Motion by Mr. Davis.
47 TOMMY DUNN: Do we have a second?
48 BRETT SANDERS: Second.
49 TOMMY DUNN: We have a second by Mr.
50 Sanders. Again, Mr. Hogan, all this meets all y’all’s
MR. HOGAN: Yes, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Any more discussion? Mr. Sanders, you good? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Thank you, Mr. Hogan. Appreciate your hard work.

RAY GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, you showing Ms. Floyd is gone?

TOMMY DUNN: She’s done left the building.

RAY GRAHAM: She’s not voting.

TOMMY DUNN: She’s not voting. It’s unanimous by the members present.

Moving on to item number 13, approval of the EDA grant submittal - Hurricane Creek Forcemain. Mr. Burns.

RUSTY BURNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is part of an application for some of the stimulus money that’s been approved by Congress and signed by the President. This is a project for us to have a chance to get over five million dollars, and we would match it with one million dollars from our sewer fund and from sewer bonds which you already have in place. And just request permission from council to apply for these monies. This is really a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get this much money from EDA. We put in the application. We meet all the qualifications. I think it has a very good chance. If you have any technical questions as to what this does, Mr. Derrick Singleton is here and can answer those for you.

TOMMY DUNN: Do we have a motion to put this on the floor?

BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

RAY GRAHAM: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Sanders; second Mr. Graham. Now discussion. Mr. Singleton, do you have any comments or anything good?

DERRICK SINGLETON: Just reiterate what Mr. Burns said. It’s a great opportunity for Anderson County. It’s a much needed improvement for one of our larger pump stations. So we are all in favor of it.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. All in favor show of hands. I’m sorry. Somebody got a question?

Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: I just wanted to ask Mr. Singleton, without that we were going to have to spend that five million anyway.

DERRICK SINGLETON: Five plus million dollars; yes.
BRETT SANDERS: So you got 6.277.
DERRICK SINGLETON: That’s correct.
BRETT SANDERS: So that’ll help go a long way. And I would like to make a note that there’s a separate thing on here on reduction of retainage on Hurricane Creek Pump Station. Those are two separate things. (Inaudible)
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Sanders.
RAY GRAHAM: And did I understand that that was stimulus money approved from Congress and our Republican President?
DERRICK SINGLETON: Yes, sir.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
Thank you, Mr. Singleton.

Moving on now to item number 14(a), Bid approvals. This is bid number 20-047. It’s bid number 20-047, Belton Kayak Launch project. Mr. Carroll.
ROBERT CARROLL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for the Belton kayak launch project. We received four responses to the bid. The low bidder, as you’ll see on there, was at one sixty-three. They didn’t have the correct licensing for this project. So we went to the next bidder who was the Belk Company of Anderson. We recommend award to Belk for a hundred and seventy-six thousand seven hundred dollars.
TOMMY DUNN: Do we have a motion to put this on the floor?
CINDY WILSON: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson. Do we have a second?
RAY GRAHAM: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Graham. Now discussion. All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.
Thank you, Mr. Carroll.

We’re going to move on now to item number 15(a), reduction in retainage for Hurricane Creek pump station rehab. Mr. Carroll.
ROBERT CARROLL: This is for a previous project which you’ve already approved. We’re requesting that you reduce the retainage from ten percent to five percent. They’re at approximately seventy-nine, eighty percent complete. There is a delay on some of the parts coming in from Sweden, held up in customs due to COVID. So they’re asking and staff recommends going ahead and reducing that retainage to five percent.
TOMMY DUNN: Do we have a motion to put this on the floor?

BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Sanders; second Ms. Wilson. Mr. Singleton, you good with this?

DERRICK SINGLETON: Yes, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Anybody got anything else, more discussion? Mr. Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: I assume that they went through everything else, meeting the guidelines that they needed to? Because we understand that there’s a lot going on with our nation right now with COVID, so I mean it’s probably something out of their control completely.

ROBERT CARROLL: Yes, sir, Mr. Graham. They’re well pleased with their work and hopefully they’ll come back and do some more.

RAY GRAHAM: Definitely trust y’all’s judgment. Thank you so much.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Carroll.

Thank you, Mr. Singleton.

Moving on to item number 16. Where’s she at?

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, ---

TOMMY DUNN: I’m sorry, got to vote.

LEON HARMON: --- got to vote.

TOMMY DUNN: Ray’s got me. Okay. All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

At this time I don’t think -- we ain’t had a finance meeting to approve none of these. That is correct; right, these transfers? We haven’t had a finance meeting approving these transfers, so we’re just going -- first of all I’m going to ask for a motion to put this on the floor.

BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion by Mr. Sanders; second by Mr. Graham. Now do we have any questions for Ms. Rita? Ms. Rita, have you got anything you’d like to say?

RITA DAVIS: The only thing I’d like to bring out, the last four, that’s a result of the new contract at the jail. And they -- Major Vaughan actually committed a hundred thousand out of his commissary account.

TOMMY DUNN: This contract we’re talking about is?

RITA DAVIS: And that’s what this is doing and they’re loving ---

TOMMY DUNN: What contract are we
talking about?

RITA DAVIS: With the new company

Medico, yes, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: For the medical treatment

is what we’re talking about?

RITA DAVIS: Uh-huh (affirmative).

That’s what we’re talking about, at the Detention Center.

TOMMY DUNN: Detention Center?

RITA DAVIS: Yes. And this is just giving a hundred thousand to the general fund to help out for that contract.

RAY GRAHAM: That was actually agreed on when we had discussed that ---

RITA DAVIS: That’s correct. He promised that and he’s a man of his word. He’s coming through with a hundred thousand.

TOMMY DUNN: Good point. Any more discussion?

RAY GRAHAM: I just want -- that was actually suggested, just to show the leadership we have in our county, that was actually brought forth with the original plan on doing this by the sheriff and also by Major Vaughan who is actually over detention. So they actually recommended and brought forth that money out of their own budget to help kind of offset this cost. So that was something they done on their part. I just wanted to make sure the citizens is aware of that.

RITA DAVIS: They offered that up.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you so much.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Graham.

All in favor of the motion show of hands. Opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

We’re going to move on, a report from Chairman Davis from the Shop Committee held on June the 5th. Chairman Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We had a pretty short and brief Shop Committee meeting. This meeting is to oversee the building of the new fleet services building. And we met and went over the budget and every -- and met with Ms. Davis, and we squeezed pennies out and I just want to applaud Mr. Joseph Stone for the fine job he’s done in planning for this building project to start.

With that being said, Mr. Chair, I make the motion to approve the shop building construction project at the former TTI site located at 1428 Pearman Dairy Road as reviewed and approved by the Shop Committee, on June 5, 2020.

TOMMY DUNN: Put that in the form of a
motion, Mr. Davis?

JIMMY DAVIS: Yes, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Coming from Committee it doesn’t need a second. Are there any discussion?

RAY GRAHAM: I just want to kind of reiterate what was stated. I know this is a lot of money to the citizens of Anderson as far as what we’re doing here. But this is something that has been needing to be done for quite some time. And the cost savings and the commitment from Mr. Joe Stone and his staff has just been astronomical. It’s unreal the savings that he has brought forth to the table in basically redesigning on how they even operate as a fleet service shop. So they’ve done a great job. This is just some savings that they have basically put back into the county and it’s our turn to basically step up and hopefully get them in the facility they need to maintain our fleet that we have. Thank you for your services.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Stone, you got anything you want to say? I’m going to put you on the spot if you’ve got anything you want to add. You good? Okay.

I want to thank the Shop Committee for all the hard work and Mr. Stone and his staff, what all they’ve done for this. And reiterate what Mr. Graham said, we very much need this. We’ve got certain equipment that we have to work on outside. Very difficult. I know it’s a long time coming and appreciate the patience for waiting to get this done.

All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously. I’m not aware of any appointments. Do we have any, number 18?

Moving on to item number 19, requests by council members. Mr. Davis?

JIMMY DAVIS: None at this time, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders?

BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to take five thousand dollars and send it to the Pendleton Recreation Association out of my recreation fund. I’d like to put that in the form of a motion.

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

CINDY WILSON: Second.

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

BRETT SANDERS: Not at this time.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Graham.
RAY GRAHAM: Nothing at this time.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten.
RAY GRAHAM: I’m sorry. I was called and contacted about that and honestly I forgot. There’s not a number on here. Is Ms. Rita still here?
TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Davis, help Mr. Graham out about the ---
RAY GRAHAM: I think it was seventy-six dollars.
TOMMY DUNN: The number down here for the wireless ...
RITA DAVIS: (Inaudible)
TOMMY DUNN: Lacey, do you have that?
RAY GRAHAM: And I’m sure it’s in my paperwork here, so I apologize. Seventy-two. I knew it was seventy something.
TOMMY DUNN: Seventy-two sixty-nine, let’s get it right.
RAY GRAHAM: I’d like to basically reappropriate seventy-two sixty-nine back into my rec fund. This is some money that was left over from some lanyards we had purchased for the Sheriff Department’s boats. I bring this in the form of a motion.
TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion ---
CINDY WILSON: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: --- by Mr. Graham.
CRAIG WOOTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
TOMMY DUNN: Second by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? All in favor of the motion show of hands. Mr. Sanders, you vote for it?
BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. I’m sorry.
TOMMY DUNN: We’re going to move on now. Anybody -- Mr. Wooten.
CRAIG WOOTEN: I do not have any at this time for District 1, but Councilwoman Floyd asked me to allocate funds on her behalf due to having to leave early. With your permission I’ll put them all together.
TOMMY DUNN: There’s three hundred and fifty dollars to the City of Anderson. She wanted to allocate fifteen hundred dollars to the Greek Festival. Three hundred and fifty dollars to Zone Services Camp for Children. And it looks like fifteen hundred dollars for Valentines Day expense for the event that she holds every year. And then lastly, she made a note that -- and left a personal check for a hundred and fifty dollars it looks like to the City of Anderson for the mayor’s breakfast for Martin Luther King Day. So I put all of those in the form of a motion. I don’t know if the personal check at the end has to be, but I put them all in the form of a motion.
TOMMY DUNN: We have a motion coming from Mr. Wooten for Ms. Floyd. Do we have a second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

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

CRAIG WOOTEN: No, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson?

CINDY WILSON: None. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank y’all. District 5 has none.

Moving on at this time, Administrator’s report. Mr. Burns.

RUSTY BURNS: Nothing at this time, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

At this time we’ll have citizens comments on items not related to the agenda. When Mr. Harmon calls your name, please state your name and district for the record and address the chair, please. You’ve got three minutes.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, first speaker is Charlene Spelts.

CHARLENE SPELTS: Honorable councilmen, councilwomen, we appreciate the opportunity to come before you today.

Many of us in County Council District 6 attended last summer Envision 6 meetings. We were told that our community vision was an important part of the future of Anderson County and Anderson County Council District 6. The meetings and the formulation of plans all summer have proven to be a waste of time and a waste of taxpayer money as exhibited by the approval of Woodland One, Phase I and Phase II. This project recommended by the office of the Planning and the Development Commission showed that our vision would be totally ignored.

On July 9th of last year, the project of a hundred and eighty-six homes was proposed and approved by the Planning Commission. It’s at the corner of Highway 86 and Blossom Branch Road in the Wren Volunteer Fire District. There were no objections.

However, on February, February 11th of this year, a new proposal came before the commission that had been approved by the Development and Planning Commission for a total of five hundred and sixty-three homes, and they were also applying for a variance on the number of entrances that were required by the South Carolina DOT. We understood from the vote of denial at this time that
it was being denied on the basis of the variance applied for and the number of houses that had a huge impact on the infrastructure of their area.

On June the 9th, last week, the one that y’all have heard so much about, a new proposal of five hundred and ninety-two houses was approved. We want to know why. Can you tell us what has changed in the last four months that the issue of overloading our infrastructure now has been satisfied?

The meeting last week, ladies and gentlemen, was in shambles. There were eleven items on that commission. It was noted that some of these items were there because they had to be brought forth immediately or they would be automatically approved. But why were so many other items thrown into the mixture to provide such a huge agenda?

Additionally, approximately one-third of this Civic Center was available for the space for our utilization. Our representative to the commission had advised that there would be a huge group coming from our area.

At first, by six fifteen, people were being denied entrance to the building. That was rectified. When we got there, there were no microphones, so I suspect the members of the commission were unable to hear most of what was being said from either side of the group. And only five of the seven members were in attendance at this huge important meeting.

LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.
CHARLENE SPELTS: All night ---
TOMMY DUNN: I’m sorry, ma’am, that’s time.
CHARLENE SPELTS: Okay.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.
CHARLENE SPELTS: Thank you.
TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am. Next, Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Beverly Moody.

BEVERLY MOODY: I am also from District 6. And I just want to reiterate what Charlene has said. That complete meeting was horrible. I did ask some questions to some of the builders and so forth and so on. And the answer to the question of why to increase the thirty-something houses was because the access was there, so therefore they could put the thirty extra houses because it would take care of the accesses, which I think is totally crazy.

My question to you is, okay, there is no sewer on that property as of yet. Does that not have to be approved before they can go forth with their building?
Another problem I have is with the water runoff. Where is that water runoff going to go to? I’m having that problem now with another place that’s already under construction that I’m getting the brunt of that I’m afraid this property is going to dump water on me, also.

We need more planning, more understanding, before we just go forth with this. Our schools in Wren District will not handle the influx of that many children. So I think you need to readdress to see what can be done, how we can work together. When it was brought forth before, we’re not against everything -- we’re not against development, but we need half the amount of houses on that property. We don’t need six hundred houses.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Josh Smith.

JOSH SMITH: My name is Josh Smith. I’m from District 2. With all these crazy and tense times, I’d like to bring a motion to sing happy birthday to Mr. Brett Sanders. He thought he was going to get away with it, but he’s not because I hold him accountable. So I bring a motion that if anybody would like to do that, I’m down. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank y’all. Anyone else?
LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, no one else is signed up.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

Moving on now, remarks from council members. Mr. Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I wish there would have been so many constituents that came out and spoke tonight that would have stayed and maybe they could learn a little bit about the Planning Commission and what it does and what it can’t do.

You know, and I wish Ms. Floyd would have stayed, because her commissioner was not even in attendance the other night when all this went down.

What we had was a Planning Commission that was an outright joke. And I’ve had constituents call me -- one of them even -- one of them said, it was like a reality show. The other person who serves in the community called me and said, this was like an episode of Tiger King. I’ve never watched Tiger King, but hear it’s pretty crazy.

But we had a mess and we had too much on an agenda. It’s already been addressed and that’s not going to happen again. We’re going to stay on top of that. We’ll never have that much on one agenda again. We’ve
broken in the couple of meetings that we had to, two or three. Really two. But I, as the council representative for District 6, and I’m very, very frustrated. And I have, for a long time, fellow councilmen, I have for a long time begged and begged for the school district to take more of a part in the Planning Commission meetings. I’ve asked the fire departments to show up. And they’ve started showing up. And for one time I had a great number of constituents in the room. The fire department stood up and said, we can’t handle this many houses. We’re volunteers. The school district showed up. Even a school board trustee was there and spoke out against it. We had several citizens there, but not all were allowed to speak.

At the end of the night there were seven people in the room that were for development and a whole lot of people, when you think about the people that the fire chief represents and the school board represents, there were a whole lot of people that were speaking out against almost six hundred houses in Piedmont, and the Planning Commission was at a tie. And so the tie got broke and District 6 basically got kicked in the gut. And I’m upset about it.

Since I’ve been on council I’ve heard Ms. Floyd talk about how she’s upset about this and she doesn’t know. Well, by golly, she should know because she gets the same information I do. And our Planning Commissioners get it.

Now, we have a Planning Commissioner in District 6 who goes out into the community. She prints things off on her own dime. She goes out and spends her own gas money and she made sure that everybody in the community knew what was going on. But at the end of the night District 6 lost. And I’m sorry to those of you that are here. I’m sorry.

To my fellow council folks here, I implore to you to talk to your commissioners and make sure they know how important the duties that they’ve agreed to take on is. If they’re scared of getting sued, they don’t need to be on the Planning Commission. If you hear that excuse, they need to go. If they don’t have good attendance to the Planning Commission meetings, they need to go. These are my opinions. If they can’t comprehend what’s going on or understand what’s in the packet, then they should have never taken the job. It is a great and awesome duty to be a Planning Commissioner, and I know it doesn’t pay very much, and I know they get to hear a lot of grief, but it is one of the most important appointments that we as council people have.
There also seems to be some type of problem with understand the who’s voting for what because evidently there’s a lot of people that don’t like to raise their hand very high.

So Mr. Chair, I would like if we can, and I know you’ve got some great ideas we’ve talked about, but I would like to get some type of roll call yay or no vote, yes or no vote, on the Planning Commission to make people vote yes or no and not just halfheartedly raise a hand.

I would like to, finally, thank the staff and Mr. Burns and all the staff for all the awesome work you’ve done through the pandemic and other things that have been going on and setting up this meeting. I know it’s a lot of work and I appreciate it. I appreciate every department in this county.

That’s all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. Real quick, I think we’ve all forgotten all the heavy rain and all we had a couple of weeks back, but I just wanted to thank Matt Hogan and his department; Greg Smith with Solid Waste and Derrick Singleton in the Sewer Department for all of the overtime and extra things that they’ve done and for the help that they provided me and my district. It was not unnoticed, and I appreciate you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Sanders.

Mr. Graham.

RAY GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I also want to thank all of our county employees for everything they do on a daily basis. It seems to be so easy to criticize the jobs that’s being done. And like I said earlier, in all actuality, what they’re doing is basically carrying through policy that we’ve set.

Again, whether it’s us or previous council members.

Our nation is in so much turmoil right now through different events that’s taking place, through the pandemic and also through other events. I look over here at the two law enforcement officers that’s with us here tonight. You know, just knowing the thoughts that’s going through their minds as they come in on a daily basis to do their jobs, you know, but yet you look across our nation and you see police departments in Atlanta that literally the officers are not even showing up to continue to serve their communities because of the turmoil that they have been put through.

I’m not going to say what’s right or what’s wrong.

I’m not going to sit back and try to armchair
quarterback, but I am saying we should we shamed as a
country that we criticize each and every individual law
enforcement over one individual’s actions. We need to
start addressing the issues in America. We need to
stand up and truly address issues instead of condemning
each and every one that has given so much to their
community.
I personally want to thank each one of you guys. I
know both -- honestly I can’t see real good this far,
but I’m sure I know both of them, and along with the
rest of the officers here in the county, we’ve got a
great group of officers. Guys that’s just like every
other organization. There might be a bad apple
somewhere. Don’t condemn every one of them. Address
the bad apple. Lift your officers up that serves your
community. They’re there to protect and serve you.
I’ve made this statement back when I was serving in law
enforcement, you know, the day that you decide that you
are not a servant is the day you need to take that badge
off because that’s what you choose to be when you choose
to put on that uniform, when you choose to put on that
badge, you choose to be a servant to the community. And
I personally thank you for serving our community and
serving my family.
Thank you, guys. I appreciate what y’all do. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Graham.
Mr. Wooten.
CRAIG WOOTEN: Nothing at this time,
sir.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Wooten.
Ms. Wilson.
CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I was running late tonight. We’re having growing pains
in our community and it’s creating some serious issues.
I was on the phone over the weekend with Mr. Hogan and
many law enforcement officers and we’re very blessed to
have all of you.
I don’t know if you got the word yet, Mr. Hogan,
however, neighbors have witnessed someone pulling the
barriers away on Paulan Road that caused the wrecks. So
we’ve called law enforcement on that.
We’ve got an issue up at Exit 27 where the Greyhound
bus is. I had a call from a very good constituent of
ours. He has a small business up there. There’s a
vagrant in the woods and he had a mulcher going in to
clear up and they came across the vagrant and the
vagrant wouldn’t leave. And it’s right near the bus
stop. So I’ve been talking with Mr. Burns, and we’ll be
talking further about dealing with that.
As far as the Planning Commission, that was the most horrible agenda to cram all that stuff into one night. I had to leave around eight thirty or nine. They didn’t get out of there until after one o’clock. I didn’t think a lot of them had had supper. They were not being able to think very clearly. I talk with my Planning Commissioner frequently and talk with some of the others, and it’s a serious issue what we came across last week. And I’m hoping and praying that we can avoid that. Five hundred and ninety-six houses in a small area is overwhelming. And I totally agree with you folks.

And we’ve had another item in my district where they’re wanting to put about three hundred and twenty apartments on a small amount of acreage where the storm water runoff is already horrific. And it’s in the middle of nice homes.

I’m hoping that with Mr. Dunn’s wise guidance on this and our attorneys and our communities that we can come up with more appropriate measures. It seems that when we have appointed officials on the seat having to approve or disapprove of millions of dollars worth of projects, that is a lot of responsibility. And if it causes an issue and they’re not elected, it hits us.

Doesn’t it, Mr. Davis?

Anyway, we’ve got to come together as a community and come up with some better methods. We will be taking up in our Planning and Public Works Commission meeting next week storm water runoff regulations. For example our development standards are based on two and ten-year rain episodes. The roads are based on twenty-five years. We’ve had back to back five hundred year floods in our county not that the drought cycle of thirty years is broken. We have the issues of trying to define what’s an RV, what’s a tiny home, what’s a mobile home, what’s a single-family dwelling. All of that. Modular. And we’ve got to define it fast because we’re being inundated with all these developers coming in.

That’s the bad news. The good news is obviously we’ve done something right in our county with all of our good people to make people want to come here. So anyway, we’ll be working really hard with our citizens and our county folks and everybody trying to come up with better measures. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

I’d like to start off with a few quick things right quick. Start off wishing Mr. Sanders a happy birthday. Most definitely. I also want to thank Ms. Hanks for being here tonight. She didn’t have to come here to help us out to get our minutes, and we appreciate that.
I also want to echo Mr. Graham’s sentiments about our law enforcement. We’ve got an outstanding group here in Anderson County and really appreciate the job they do, and shutter to think where we would be without them. I want to thank our staff in Anderson County for the job they do, and Mr. Burns. And a lot of stuff they do that’s never seen behind the scene, especially Mr. Burns and all this, late hours working keeping us from having a problem. I really do appreciate it. Appreciate Mr. Hogan. I know him and some other people this year, storm water and all has had a heck of a year with the water we’ve had. Appreciate the job y’all are doing and our resources are strained.

I want to echo Mr. Davis’s sentiments about the meeting the other and about -- it just wasn’t the other night. This has been going on for some time in my mind, keeping up with this thing about some things with the Planning Commission.

I would like to say, Mr. Davis, it just ain’t a -- personally in my opinion it wasn’t a loss for y’all’s district, it was a loss for Anderson County what happened the other night. I want to say that we’ve got to -- it’s only going to get worser as developments come up and as they go. But the Planning Commission, by state law, has got more power than county council does on some things. They can approve something or disapprove it and it never gets to county council. That’s the way state law is set up. So it’s very important.

But what I would like to do -- and on the -- I’ll address in just a second. On the other issues tonight about the RV park, the tiny homes, I think there’s some miscommunications out in the public. I don’t think it was necessarily the people said this. The application planning is RV. And there’s definitions what a RV is and what tiny home is. And I hope Ms. Wilson’s committee is going to redefine that and make sure we put it down what it is in the county. But it’s -- already the definition is there.

What I would like -- I’m going to throw out tonight, our next council meeting is Tuesday night, same place, same time, I’m going to appoint an ad hoc committee and it’s going to be for experimenting and if it works out and we tweak it, I’m going to ask for it -- put in for it to be an ordinance.

What this purpose is, it’s a significant number of residential housing projects being proposed in the county. And as I said earlier, it’s only going to get more and more. It’s important to provide input to developers early in the planning process. Time and time
again I hear, well, staff approved this. Staff didn’t approve it. All staff ever says is you meet these qualifications and this and they can recommend this or that. But they don’t have the approval thing. But you hear this, well, we spent thousands and thousands of dollars and we wouldn’t have done this if we had known this. That’s just kind of opposition. Many issues can be addressed early on and the developer can make a decision as to whether he proceeds further or not. The developer can present a better project to the Planning Commission with a more thorough analysis of issues, I feel like.

So what I would like to do is put a committee together with a member of the county staff, and I’m going to define that, with two or three people with the county staff, county council member whose district this development or this project is going to affect and let that council person pick another council person to have two council members on there. I think a representative of the fire department needs to be on there of the district that’s going to be serving that district. I think we need to have a representative from the school district who’s going to be representing the school in that district and get input.

And they’ll meet before the Planning Commissioner or developer ever gets that far to write up their application. That way they’ll know first hand there’s going to be some opposition or going to get a thumb up how it’s looking and can vet things out. I’m sorry we haven’t done this earlier. But like I said, I wish we could go back and correct some of these things. Even if we wanted to, state law won’t let us, unfortunately. And we can’t do it. The citizens can do, as it was brought up tonight about the people down in Homeland Park, the same way as any district, District 6, 5, any of them comes up, you’ve got a right to go across the road for appeals. And if you think you had a horrible situation the other night, I talked to somebody, you might have a good ground to stand on to get an appeal, to get it turned down or sent back.

I appreciate the people coming here tonight and look forward to seeing you Tuesday night. Thank to my fellow council members. Meeting will be adjourned.

(MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:34 P.M.)