ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 7, 2020

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

ALSO PRESENT:
RUSTY BURNS
LEON HARMON
LACEY CROEGAERT
TOMMY DUNN: At this time I’d like to call the regular Anderson County Council meeting of July 7th to order. I’d like to welcome each and every one of you here tonight. Thank y’all for coming and participating in your local county government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY CRAIG WOOTEN

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

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

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, the first speaker is Josh Smith.
JOSH SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Dunn. I wanted to thank the Honorable Mr. Graham who’s not here tonight and our beautiful staff members that we had for Brett Sanders for their part in the Second Amendment, getting that together. This is the third and final reading for that. And I’m looking forward to seeing that passed, as well. It’s a good step in the direction of immediate stuff.

Second, small homes in the state. Third, people worried about a statue. Hopefully we can worry about a crime rate and drive-bys to solve the problems now and then worry about that later. It’s been here a hundred years.

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

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Linda Davis.

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

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next.

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

IRENE WHEATON: Hello. Good evening.

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am.

IRENE WHEATON: I wanted to come to say the same exact thing. I live on William Walker Road, as well, a neighbor. And my concerns is really practically the same thing. Where we live at is all seniors. We all been there twenty-five to thirty-five or more years. And the same thing with traffic and us
being in that little development where we’re at, it
seems like to me that it would be pushing all the
seniors out, you know, with us that’s been living there
for all these many years to try to find another place,
really, to move to go.
And I made phone calls while I was outside. And
when I made the phone calls on the little development
that we do have with all the seniors, no one got
anything in the mail. Nobody got no kind of card.
They got nothing.
And I made some other phone calls on Burns Bridge
Road, which is combined right around the corner. I
made calls to them. They did not get anything in the
mail. So nobody really knew anything about the meeting
or anything. I didn’t even come prepared because I
didn’t find out till after 5:00 when somebody had
called to, you know, let me know.
And I just feel that that’s unfair to us.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Anna

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

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am.

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

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

ANNA FOSTER: Do it now? Okay.

TOMMY DUNN: I mean that’s up to you.

ANNA FOSTER: I don’t know if I can
squeeze it in.

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

ANNA FOSTER: I’m sorry.

TOMMY DUNN: No problem. Yes, ma’am.

Next.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Randy

Jones.

RANDY JONES: My name is Randy Jones.
I’m from Cindy Wilson’s district, District 7. I’m here
to represent the South Carolina Carry, as well as
Belton Gun Club, and to say that we appreciate all the
work that the county has done for the Second Amendment
Sanctuary Ordinance. And look forward to it passing	onight. Appreciate your help.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Katherine Farrah.
TOMMY DUNN: I don’t understand. I checked this out today and we could hear fine. But it’s Katherine Farrah. Give me just one minutes; okay?
KATHERINE FARRAH: All right.
JIMMY DAVIS: And if you could get as close -- there you go.
KATHERINE FARRAH: How’s that?
JIMMY DAVIS: You’re fine.
TOMMY DUNN: I’m sorry. Go ahead.
KATHERINE FARRAH: Thank you all for hearing me tonight. My name is Katherine Farrah and I’m here to speak about the rezoning on Highway 187 and Fants Grove Road. I’ve lived there, about a mile and a half from there, since 1996, and I love the peaceful nature of the area and have had the opportunity to move away a couple of times but chose to stay because of the peaceful nature. And I hope that you all will hear us when we say that we would like to keep the peaceful nature. If you will please vote to keep the R-20 as it is. Thank you very much.
TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am. Thank you.
Next, Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Grayson Buckner.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Buckner, do you want to speak? You abstain, okay. Next.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Chris Heelwagen.
TOMMY DUNN: Okay.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Jamie McCutchen.
TOMMY DUNN: Okay.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker, Alex Dymterko.
TOMMY DUNN: You go right ahead. If you’ll just state your name and where you’re from. And I’m listening.
ALEX DYMTERKO: Alex Dymterko from Greenville, South Carolina. I am the petitioner and developer for the Welpine Road rezoning. We appreciate the support in our first reading of the five nothing vote. I’m here available to answer any questions should any come up during the course of the evening.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Elizabeth Fant.
TOMMY DUNN: You ain’t got to get
ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, District 3. I’m speaking on the Welpine development and also the RV park.

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is James Allen.

JAMES ALLEN: Is this one on gun control?

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

JAMES ALLEN: James Allen from Anderson, South Carolina. And this is standing up to how I feel about gun control. I had a lady call me the other night and told me to come by her house first thing in the morning. She rents from me. Her house is shot up. Bullets through the windows to the back. Terrified. She said I was by myself. I generally have my grandchildren here, but I was by myself. Had no way of protecting myself. I called the police department. They did come out. Took a few minutes to get here, but said they did come out. But they drove by. They stopped in front of her house and just starting shooting. No way to protect herself. Like I said, the police did get there. But they broke her door down -- she said, if they come back and break my door down, what do I do? I said, ma’am, I don’t know. I can’t tell you what to do. But get some way of protecting yourself. Something to protect yourself. That’s all I told her. Protect yourself somehow another.

Our church, Evergreen Street, 1305, go by it.

You’ll see our front door shot up. Our fellowship we
built, took us a long time to save the money. Bullet holes through it. I’ve got a concealed weapon. I don’t tote it to protect myself as much as I do my grandchildren and my children. Our church. We have somebody at the front door, back door, bottom door watching, along with cameras.

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

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

APPLAUSE

LEON HARMON: Mr. Harmon.

speaker is Rich Bennett.  


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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Harmon.

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

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

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

This is a company, Tactical Medical, that is expanding their operation and they’re going to manufacture -- the reason it’s called Robo -- they’re going to manufacture
a medical robot that will be used in training nurses. It will actually have a heartbeat, respiration, blood pressure, all of those things. And they can imitate wound repair, wound care. All kinds of things with this. And it’s a very expensive piece of equipment.

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

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

CRAIG WOOTEN: Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten.

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

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

CRAIG WOOTEN: It don’t matter.

TOMMY DUNN: Either way will be fine.

At this time we’re going to go into a public hearing on this matter. Anyone wishing to speak to this matter, please step forward, state your name and district, address the chair, please. Anyone at all? Seeing and hearing none, public hearing will be closed. Let the record show Mr. Wooten has abstained from voting. 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. Any discussion?

JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: I just want to take just a quick few seconds to explain to the people out here, your county is hard at work for you, and our Economic Development Department is led by Mr. Burriss Nelson is out there and we see great opportunities in businesses and expanding in Anderson County. And this is a great
opportunity for us. Twenty-one new jobs with a high rate of pay with health insurance. And a community impact of 4.1 million dollars the first year.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

Anyone else?

CINDY WILSON: May I?

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

Anyone else? All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

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

BURRISS NELSON: Thank you for your support, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

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

BRET SANDERS: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I left my glasses in the car running in from the rain. Let’s see.

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Sanders.

At this time we’ll be going into a public hearing.
Anyone wishing to speak on this matter, please step forward, state your name and district and address the chair, please. Anyone at all.

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

JUDITH POLSON: I have a soft voice.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Anyone?

Come on up.

RAY BROCK: Mr. Dunn, council members, I’m Ray Brock. I live in District 2. I would like to personally thank y’all for your attention to supporting and recognizing the Second Amendment rights of all Americans as they were intended by our forefathers and our founding fathers. And they saw a need to recognize the safety and security of firearms. Not just so they could hunt, but to protect their rights. Because they had just came out of a revolution and they fought that because one of the reason the British wanted to confiscate their weaponry, their only means to overthrow an oppressive government and to gain their freedom. But we all know this. Or most of us know this. But I just wanted to thank y’all. And I appreciate it.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?

Yes, sir.

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?

TOMMY DUNN: APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Calm it down, please.

Anyone else?

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

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

It’s not a full proof legislation. It’s not full proof law, but somehow, someway, we have got to be able to make sure that we regulate gun ownership to the point to where we’re not trying to take people rights, but we have to regulate because we have so much gun violence, so much unnecessary killing, so much
unnecessary dying.

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

APPLAUSE

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

BRETT SANDERS: Very back, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Step on up.

TERRY ALLEN: First of all I’m going to say it’s good to be here to hear all you people and to listen to what people have to say. But as far as the ---

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

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

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

So I don’t care to hear people say do away with our law enforcement. I think we need to strengthen our law enforcement. Go back to two per car like we used to have because we’re outnumbered. Our population has
grown. We’re outnumbered. So the only way we can protect our self is if it takes a weapon to do that in your home, so be it. We’ve got dogs that comes over to our house. Attacks me all the time. I run in the house. And they tell me I can’t shoot the dog. But I mean a dog comes inside of my home still trying to bite me and I still don’t have the right to shoot the dog.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Next. Anyone else?

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else? Anyone?

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

But we have a problem. And that is that people who break into pawn shops, homes, whatever, are often looking for weapons. Somebody may break into your house and get your handgun, your rifle, whatever. It’s not registered. We have no way of knowing who has it.
And these -- this is the element that causes us so much trouble.

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

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

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

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

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

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

So I appreciate the efforts and I just -- I hate that there’s not more people to understand that -- what these Bill of Rights mean to us. They’re not granted by our government. These are things that are -- they’re things that we have that we’re protected against our government. So everything that we can do to protect that is going to be critically important. I
appreciate your support and hope it’ll pass tonight.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone else?

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

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

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

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

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

BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

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

JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to say a few comments.

I am very proud of our county tonight. I’m very thankful and proud of Chairman Ray Graham and Councilman Brett Sanders for leading this committee. There were several citizens that had input. Our county attorney, Mr. Leon Harmon, made sure that things were done right and in a legal way. And last, but not
least, I want to thank Sheriff Chad McBride who also
contributed to this ordinance that we’re reading
tonight. And I’m very appreciate to the Sheriff for
being a part of that and having input on it.

I’m a proud supporter of the Second Amendment and
the protection of our rights. I’m a lifetime member of
Belton Gun Club. I’m a proud member of the NRA. And
I’m thankful that tonight we will see Anderson County
become a Second Amendment Sanctuary County.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

I’d just like to say in closing I want to
reiterate, I want to thank the committee and the
council members, the Sheriff, our attorney. I want to
thank the citizens for -- that served on this committee
that got us where we’re at today. I want to thank
y’all, the public for being here, and putting y’all’s
input on both sides of the issue. That’s what makes
good government.

All in favor of the vote ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am.
GRACIE FLOYD: I would like to
make a comment.
TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead.
GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I think
I’ve told y’all this before ---
TOMMY DUNN: Speak into the mic,
Mr. Floyd. We can’t hear you.
GRACIE FLOYD: I think I’ve told
y’all this before, that I am a carrier. I am a -- I
have my whatever you call it thing that allows you to
carry a gun. I have one of those; okay. But I heard
it all from the back.

Now, I don’t care -- I don’t care what you say
about me, just like you don’t care what I think, but I
will fight for the right for you to say it. And I will
do anything I can to make sure you have a chance to say
it. We don’t have to agree. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: All in favor of the
vote show of hands. All opposed. Show the motion
carries with Mr. Davis, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Mr.
Wooten and Ms. Wilson in favor and Ms. Floyd opposes.

Moving on.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Keep it down,
please.

Moving on to item number 5(c), 2020-009, an
ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of
certain agreements by and between Anderson County, South Carolina and Sargent Metal Fabricators, Incorporated and Bailtuck, LLC 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 and enact certain further legislation for said companies, Project MIT involving an expected nine million five hundred thousand dollar investment and create an expected fifty jobs in the county. Mr. Nelson.

BURRISS NELSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you. MIT and Sargent Metal and Industrial Coaters, they’re expanding fifty jobs and 9.5 million dollars in capital investment. Fifty jobs with an annual -- with an hourly salary of seventeen twenty-five, generating an annual payroll of 1.725 million dollars each year. MIT is currently -- is current with its capital investment and jobs creation from previous projects and is certainly up to date with its current property tax. And is bringing to us an opportunity for great jobs. There was a press release that you should have in the back of your packet of your document from -- a press release from the governor’s office on Tuesday -- last Thursday, July 2nd.

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

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

JIMMY DAVIS: So moved.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Davis; second Ms. Wilson. Now discussion.

CINDY WILSON: May I real quick?

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: This is another home grown company that’s been here for a long time and they’ve consistently added more and more employees and more and more manufacturing. We’re very blessed to have home grown family-owned businesses because we all know that small businesses in this country generally
hire the most people collectively. So we’re blessed to have these companies in our county. Thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Burriss -- Mr. Burriss Nelson, at one time did we hear, or am I mistaken, I’m asking a question because I don’t know now. Okay? But did we say at one time that they were going to have more jobs than fifty?

BURRISS NELSON: Well, they have currently over a hundred jobs that they’re maintaining. This is the second expansion. You know, we did an expansion for them about four years ago. And they continue to grow. This is an eighty thousand square foot expansion of their current building and will add an additional fifty jobs.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But at one time did we hear that they were going to add more than fifty jobs?

BURRISS NELSON: Not to my ---

GRACIE FLOYD: It has always been fifty jobs?

BURRISS NELSON: Not to my knowledge, on this project.

GRACIE FLOYD: Now what’s not to your knowledge. Have they always said fifty jobs?

BURRISS NELSON: Yes, ma’am.

GRACIE FLOYD: And how much money are they getting out of this?

BURRISS NELSON: There’s a SSRC multi-county park agreement ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-uh, no, no, no, no. No, no, no, no, no, let’s not do SSRC. Let’s say what SSRC is because a lot of people don’t know, and I don’t know either.

BURRISS NELSON: Special Source Revenue Credit.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right.

Now, ---

BURRISS NELSON: And that special source revenue credit allows them a discount of property tax of sixty percent for the first five years.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay, now, it says the company’s nine million five -- okay, 9.5 million investment will increase -- will create fifty new jobs.

BURRISS NELSON: That’s right.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. So is this money coming from the, from the federal government?

This money is coming from where?
BURRISS NELSON: Well, they have cash of their own and will borrow money from various lenders and banks.

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

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

GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, good. So --

all right. Good. Thank you.

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

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

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

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

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

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

Of course, I have complained about that. And the Director of the department tells me, well, they’ve changed it now or they’re going to change it now. They’re going to start putting the date on there. But other things happened that wasn’t right. I only have five minutes to tell you about it, and I can’t do it in five minutes. But I’m going to tell you one thing, it wasn’t right. And while I was waiting back there I
heard you talking about the Centerville -- any more
Centerville people in here? All of them gone; right?
But anyway, Centerville, you better watch out. You
better watch out. They’ve got four opportunity zones
they’re calling them. It’s not an opportunity for
you. It’s an opportunity for them. They’re going to
come over in this district and they’re going to take
these people’s community from them. They’re going to
put up one hundred one day and ninety the next day.
But today they’re putting up one hundred little tiny
houses on wheels. On wheels.
  Do you want that in your backyard? They don’t
either. They don’t either. But they don’t seem to
have a chance.

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

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

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

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

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

Council members, I’m asking you, please pass the
third reading so that District 2 and its community
members and others will have an opportunity to fight
this thing. To work this thing. To get the truth
about these things.
Here we heard that they don’t have any water. They’re not going to get water. Today I heard, oh, yeah, we’re going to get water. Nobody knows what to think.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CINDY WILSON: May I, Mr.
Chairman?

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

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

We have learned from this so fortunately we can change some things and Ms. Hunter is going to make some
recommendations to us, and like Ms. Wilson alluded to about the public notice and public things.

We’ve been dealing with this or it’s been coming since like February. I announced at the last council meeting anybody wants to call me I’ll be glad to set up meetings to see what we can do. The only course is in the law, state law, is going across the street at -- not here, but at the new courthouse and file a suit with a lawyer. We can’t do it for you. We’re not got the thing. It’s got to be the citizens doing it.

That’s the remedy. That’s what the law says. But we can’t. That’s not going -- it’s been since February since this thing has been in the works and there should have done been some meetings and some things. Like I said we know what a definition of RV park is. We know what the definition of tiny homes is. It’s in our ordinances and what we adopted in the National Codes of Building.

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

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair?

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Floyd.

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

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

APPLAUSE

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

The only thing we know is that I was sent some papers about -- just like we do every month -- about a
meeting that’s going to be held. It didn’t have District 2 on there anywhere. It could have been seven districts and I can’t afford to go to seven districts and find out if this was mine. Somebody should have called me first as they had been doing to others. But I didn’t get that. I didn’t get that.

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

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

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: We’ve got time on this issue. All in favor of Ms. Floyd’s motion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I was through anyway.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. All in favor of Ms. Floyd’s motion, show of hands. All opposed.

Show the motion is defeated with Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Davis and Ms. Wilson opposed. Mr. Wooten and Ms. Floyd in favor.

GRACIE FLOYD: It’s what we expected, but ---

TOMMY DUNN: We’re move on to number 6(a).

GRACIE FLOYD: Watch out for your neighborhoods.

TOMMY DUNN: Ordinance second reading, 2020-013, an ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone plus or minus nineteen plus or minus acres from C-2 highway commercial to R-M multi-family residential on Welpine Road.

Mr. Sanders, would you like to make any comments before we go into public hearing.

BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. This is a project that Ms. Floyd was referring to. It passed unanimously last time. The developers did things the proper way. Prior to spending money and drawings, they actually came before me. I met with the developers. They met with the community. I had some concerns and issues about ingress and egress. They met with Holt Hopkins over our Roads and Bridges; with Matt Hogan, as well.

This is the way a project should be done, and not get caught up midstream later on after money has been invested and spent.

I think it’s a great addition for the area over in Welpine. It’s right there at the Cracker Barrel/Outback area. They’ve also agreed to make the Interstate Boulevard, which is one way in/one way out, to actually offer another alternative.

And I would appreciate council’s support on this issue.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Sanders.

We’ll be going into public hearing now. Anyone wishing to speak to this matter, please step forward and state your name and district and address the chair, please. Anyone at all? Hearing and seeing none, the public hearing will be closed. Do we have a motion to put it on the floor?
BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: Motion Mr. Sanders.

Do we have a second?

JIMMY DAVIS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Davis.

Now discussion.

Ms. Hunter, do you have anything you want to add?

ALISIA HUNTER: No, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Anything at all?

All in favor of the motion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously with council members here. Show Ms. Floyd has left. We’ve got Mr. Davis, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Wooten and Ms. Wilson in favor.

Moving on to item number 6(b), an ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone plus or minus 43.91 acres from R-20 single family residential to R-A that’s residential agricultural, located at 2705 Centerville Road. District 5.

Ms. Hunter, do you have anything you want to add to this before we go into public hearing?

ALISIA HUNTER: No, sir, unless you have some further questions.

TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Thank you.

We’ll go into public hearing on this matter. Anyone wishing to step forward and speak to this matter, please step forward and state your name and district and address the chair, please. Anyone at all? Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing will be closed. Put this in the form of a motion to put on the floor. Do we have a second?

JIMMY DAVIS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Davis.

Now any discussion? Seeing and hearing none, all in favor of the emotion show of hands. All opposed like sign. Show the motion carries unanimously.

Moving on to item number 6(c), 2020-017, an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Anderson County, South Carolina and Project Westwind with respect to certain economic development property in the county, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes, including the provision of certain special source revenue credits.

Mr. Nelson.

BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of council. Westwind is a project we have an independent citizen in the community who is willing to spend 2.8 million dollars of his own money to build a spec building out at the Airport Industrial
Park. We do not have any Class A industrial buildings. This will be the only Class A industrial building that we’ll have available in the county to attract other industries. Fifty-five thousand square feet. This will give us an opportunity to bring jobs and an opportunity to further develop the Anderson Airport Industrial Park.
This project will pay -- the property last year paid sixty dollars in property tax. The first year of 2021 or probably 2022, the project will pay about five thousand in taxes. And over twenty years will pay over four hundred thousand just as a shell building. Obviously we hope, and so does the developer hope, that that building will be filled with an industry full of good high paying jobs.
But the important part of this is we’re getting a spec building for industrial recruitment and using somebody else’s money to do that. The county doesn’t have to spend a dime in the development of this particular project other than the discounted property tax.
This comes to council as a recommendation from staff as well as from the Advisory Board. And we appreciate your consideration. Thank you, sir.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson. Do we have a motion to move this forward?
CINDY WILSON: So moved.
TOMMY DUNN: Motion Ms. Wilson.

Do we have a second?
BRETT SANDERS: Second.
TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Sanders.

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

BURRISS NELSON: Mr. Chairman, ---
TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir.
BURRISS NELSON: --- I’d like to thank you and all the members of council for all your continued support.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you and your staff for the great work you’re doing for Anderson County.

BURRISS NELSON: Thank you, sir.
TOMMY DUNN: We’re going to move on now to item number 7(a), this is an ordinance first reading. This is 7(a), 2020-014, an ordinance to amend the zoning map to rezone plus or minus 141.83 acres from R-20 single family residential to PD planned development located at Highway 187, Fants Grove Road, Burns Bridge Road, and William Walker Road.
We’ll be going into a public hearing in just a
second. But I’m going to ask Mr. Sanders if he’s got
any comments before we go into public hearing?
BRETT SANDERS: Yes, sir. Thank
you, Mr. Chairman.
I want all the people from 187 area to know that I
am a part of your community. I live on LaFrance Road.
This development is a mile, mile and a half from where
I live. I pass it daily. I’ve had multiple calls,
multiple emails. I have spent weeks on this. I’ve
called Ms. Hunter multiple times, even after hours to
gather information and facts.
And there’s two facts that I want to share with
everyone here tonight. Number one, I only have one way
or two ways to vote. That’s either a yes or a no. I
want people to understand what the yes or no means.
No means it stays R-20 which the community voted on
in 2002 at Mount Taber for the zoning. What that means
is — and correct me if I’m wrong, Ms. Hunter — there
can be on that particular site with everything in
there, two hundred and forty homes or two hundred and
forty mobile homes can be put on that property with no
input from council or from you guys.
TOMMY DUNN: If I’m not mistaken
that would be double wides.
BRETT SANDERS: Double wides, and
they do have to be underpinned, thank God. But if we
vote yes, that means more than two hundred and forty
homes.
But I talked with our attorney, Mr. Harmon, today
and I would like to vote yes on first reading. It has
to have three readings in order to pass. I want to
vote yes on first reading with a caveat that the
developers or engineers and the community, citizens
from the community, get together and ask questions,
talk. I mean we don’t know what we can get done over
there unless we ask.
Is Mr. McCutchen here? This gentleman right here,
I talked to him today. He is with Elliott, Davis. Is
that correct, sir?
TOMMY DUNN: Davis & Floyd.
BRETT SANDERS: Davis & Floyd.
He’s the engineer on that project. I talked with him
today. They’re willing to listen to the people, to
make concessions, to put berms up, extra shrubbery,
green space.
So the thing is, I can vote yes first reading.
Then it’ll have to come back before us again after the
community group meets with Mr. McCutchen — excuse me
if I pronounce that wrong — to see if they can work
out something. Other than that there can be two hundred and forty houses or trailers there with no input from us.

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

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

And I’m requesting that council go with me on first reading. If it’s not the community’s agreement, it will be voted and turned down the next two readings. There has to be three readings, again. But I don’t know how anyone could not want to sit down with someone that’s getting ready to put a minimum with no input two hundred and forty houses. This will allow us and make them come to the table to where we can have some input. I think it’s the common sense way to do it. And that’s what I’m putting forth tonight. And I appreciate everyone being here and I look forward to hearing your comments.

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

JAMIE MCCUTCHEN: My name is Jamie McCutchen. I’m with Davis & Floyd Engineering out of
Greenville. I came up here first because I do want to -- I know there’s people here that have concerns. Quite a few of those in the hearing earlier. And unfortunately we haven’t been able to get information out to everyone just because of COVID and other issues, so I kind of want to go through with council to show you what we’ve already done and address a few key issues.

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

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

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

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

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

At the public hearing we heard the comments. We were able to finally get a lot of information from the community. And so what we did is we went back and said, okay, if it stayed R-20 -- I’m sorry, I don’t
have this one in color so it may not show quite as well
-- what would happen. How could we do it if it was R-
20? Well, in order to get enough lots out there to
make it work, we had to use every bit of the property.
Our previous plan had buffers all the way around. We
were saving a lot of stuff in open space, a lot of
parks.
Under this plan we have a row of lots fronting on
William Walker Road. In our previous plan we didn’t
have any lots on William Walker Road. They were all
backing up, but we had a connection except for this one
little area in here. Okay? We also had to use all of
this area back in the back by this stream. Under the
county requirements in order to get the number of lots
we have to use basically every square inch. And so it
goes all the way around, no buffers, nothing to really
protect the adjoining property owners because if you’re
going to limit it to that, you’ve got to get as much
yield as you can.
We don’t want to do that. To be honest, I don’t
believe my client would actually do that. I believe
the current owner would probably either do it himself
or find someone else to do it.
So what we did do is last week, with Councilman
Sanders’ help and the property owner’s help, we met
with a small group of residents in the area. So there
was about five -- four families represented. Five
people there. And we went back to the drawing board
and we listened to them. We had a two-hour meeting.
And we said tell us your concerns. Tell us what all it
is that’s really giving you heartburn.
Well, first off they said we don’t want as much
commercial. We said okay. We’re okay with that. We
took it down from twenty acres commercial to three and
a half acres commercial. The only commercial now is
right here on the corner of Fants Grove and Highway
187. So we took out sixteen and a half acres of
commercial development out of this plan.
We heard the citizens from William Walker that
there’s elderly there, they’ve been there a long time.
They don’t want to be disturbed. We took that property
out entirely. We’re not going to touch that property.
It’s not going to be included in the plan. There is no
access at all to William Walker Road. There is a
twenty foot buffer down William Walker. There’s a
great row of trees down William Walker Road now. We’re
maintaining those and leaving an extra room to plant
more wherever it’s been and needs it. So the residents
on William Walker would only have the back of these
houses with a solid twenty foot natural buffer with the
large trees remaining in place.

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

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

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

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

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

And in the community meeting we did have -- and I don’t know if any of you were here tonight to speak because I hate to speak for someone else -- but I believe when I left there, their agreement -- or their perception of the project was a plan like this with all these buffers and all these protections and all these requirements is better than what it could be. And that’s our goal. Yes, we’re asking for a little higher density. We need a few more units. Not everybody wants to live on a half acre or an acre. You know,
we’re meeting the demand that’s out there. But in order to do that we can give up some areas around the outside and preserve it.

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. JAMIE MCCUTCHEN: Thank you very much.

TOMMY DUNN: Next.

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

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

Now also a thing to take into consideration is when it floods there are two main issues with this area in
traveling to and from Wild Hog Road. The main issues with flooding have to do with low-lying areas near this property. My neighborhood is known for flooding and it is directly across the road.

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

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

Our community does not want Wild Hog Road to become a three-lane road with turning lanes and congestion. I completely understand the concept of wanting to see our county grow. But if a developer can create an over-filled neighborhood, it will lead to a perilous environment. There will be more crime, issues with School District 4 being able to facilitate additional children, traffic hazards and mainly an invasion of privacy to current residents.

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

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

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

Thank you for your time. And I greatly appreciate everything that you all do.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next, please.

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Come on up.

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

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

People also use this road as a racetrack to test out how fast their sports cars and motorcycles can go. There’s also been several deaths in the Fants Grove area and that’s with less than ten residence houses there now. The speeding is -- traffic down our road makes me nervous having two kids playing around the farm. I can’t imagine having more traffic down our road, bringing more speeders, being late for work or hurrying home to their families, not thinking of the houses and the kids they’re passing from the development of the roads rezoning application.
This is also worrying, considering there is a proposed entrance to the development on our road. We are also concerned with the development at 187 and Burns Bridge Road for the same reasons; the traffic. There are regular wrecks and accidents on 187 and the road is already busy. It’s plenty busy with the amount of people who live and travel down 187 without the addition of well over two hundred and fifty houses -- proposed houses and several businesses added to that.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Next, please.

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

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

My wife and I are from Columbus, Ohio. The reason we came down here is because Anderson County reminds us of Columbus, Ohio in the seventies. Columbus, Ohio went through the same thing that you all are going through right now. Business is beating your doors down to be here because of the quality of life here. Don’t let it get ahead of you. If it will you’ll end up like
Columbus. We’re so happy to be down here now because with COVID and the riots, we watched our families back in Columbus get drug through this and we didn’t suffer from it. And we didn’t suffer because Anderson is the way it is. Make sure you pay attention to what happens going into the future now.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Next, please.

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

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

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

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

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

So please, make sure we’re looking at all angles on any proposals, if in fact it gets put through tonight.

Now, I’ve got to admit, personally I’m a little awkward standing here. Rich Bennett I think owns the property. Rich, you’re here. Listen ---

TOMMY DUNN: Sir, you’re to talk to me.

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

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

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

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

AUDREY BALDWIN: Good evening, council members. My name is Audrey Baldwin. I live off of Shadow Lane in District 4. Nice to meet you.

This is the first council meeting I’ve been to. Thank you for your time tonight. I know you’re working hard to make Anderson County a great place to live and work.

I know that’s very difficult. There’s a lot of opportunity in Anderson County; even more than there is in Greenville County so I really think if we could plan things intentionally that would be important. So I have a few things that I would like to read to you.
My husband and I both live and work in the upstate. We very much would like to remain in Anderson County to raise a family and enjoy the area we currently reside in. As an employee at Clemson University, the proximity and character of the area under rural zoning regulations allows us to live in a highly desirable area and with a more rural feel. There is no doubt urban sprawl is happening across Anderson County and is happening on 187. AnMed even owns property on 187.

I’m not sure if people are aware of that.

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

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

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

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

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

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

How many acres and areas of Anderson County are we going to allow irresponsible development to occur before a master development plan is in place,
specifically one over a twenty-year term.
I’m also specifically concerned about quality of
residential structures and predatory home building.
This needs to undergo further exploration. For
example, in documents provided on the Southern Homes’
website, the developer of Wren Point, Cherry Hill,
Belvedere, Piper Glen, I know we’ve all seen it. And
this is also not taking into account in the traffic
studies. So that’s something else we need to consider
when we’re talking about approval for this development.

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

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

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

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

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

I have a great concern about the overall long term
development plan for Anderson County and if quality of
life and long term sustainable development is being
prioritized over profit. Predatory home building for
profit in the upstate has been detrimental. We’re seeing the impact of this in Greenville County which in January 2020 approved a twenty-year long range development plan to help combat the impact of allowing developers to prioritize profit over quality of life for citizens.

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

There are other communities who sit down at the table and intentionally develop areas to be best for the community and the needs of their county. Predatory home building decreases the quality of life for residents like myself and also discourages healthy and sustained community development.

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Next.

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

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

But also I was part of the planning meeting with the developers and one of our concerns was definitely student housing. And they said legally they cannot promise that those town homes will not be bought by families and then rented out to college students, which would make Fants Grove Road a highway straight to Clemson. And it would just -- the traffic on that road would be intense. Already it’s high. And we use that road because that’s also where T. Ed Garrison has a large equine facility and miles and miles of trails.

So that’s -- there are trailers with horses and people riding along those roads and walking along those roads. I know the ROTC uses that land also for training purposes and they have recruits out all over that land, as well. And increasing the traffic on that road would not be beneficial for our community.

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Next, please. Come on up. This fellow back here -- okay. Come on.
LANE OWEN: Good afternoon, council members. I appreciate your time. I live -- my name is Lane Owens and I live in District 4 off of Indian Trail that’s about a mile from the development.

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next.

GRAYSON BUCKNER: Grayson Buckner, District 4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else? Anyone?

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

Because if we say yes -- if you all choose to say yes to the developer with the caveat of input, that’s what I’m concerned about. They can hear what you all will say, but do they have to accept that. You know, if you say yes and then say but, you know, that’s what I’m concerned about. Is saying yes to the developer...
for those four hundred plus homes versus what is available at this point which is about two hundred homes, which is a lot. And I’ve lived here for a long time, as I mentioned earlier, but I’m concerned about the changing of the landscape. So it’s saying yes to the developer I’m concerned about and then saying but now you need to listen to us. That’s what I’m concerned about. And I’m also concerned about once the land is rezoned there, then it seems like it would be easy to rezone the rest of the farm land around on 187 for commercial purposes and also this high density housing. Thank you for listening. I know it’s been a long night and I’m sorry I, at the last minute, jumped up when you thought it was all over.

TOMMY DUNN: Yes, ma’am.

KATHERINE FARRAH: So thank you.

TOMMY DUNN: Next.

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

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

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

When we talk about this particular community and this particular location, I share all of the concerns that have been brought forward; the traffic, the taxes, the school problems, the need for public security, the need for public spaces, all of those things. I am completely on board with it.
My problem with a planned development is simply this, and I’m going to read it from the context of the website. And it says a planned development, encourage innovative and creative design — I’m all for that — of mixed use developments to permit a greater amount of flexibility to the developer by removing some of the restrictions of conventional zoning.

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

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

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

We’ve not moved ahead since it was withdrawn last year. We’ve simply put a shiny wrapper on it and called it a PD and put the same thing forward, even worse now. We’ve in a worse predicament than we were before. Listening to the developer say I’m going to go out; I want to talk to the community; I want to hear. It was April of this year and that communication was initiated by me to the developer over concerns over my animals. There was no outreach done. None, in a year’s time. What came forward was a plan. And we
were all -- thankfully somebody shared a website and I
was able to review it. So nothing has been done.

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

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

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

For me, as a resident of Anderson County, I would
be proud -- in fact I would champion it to the top of
the world if this community would take this opportunity
to do something that comported more with the
surrounding area. This is a great opportunity for
someone to come in and say you know what, we need to
build a sustainable community. I’m not a tree hugger,
folks, and I’m not. I’m a goat farmer. Okay. That’s
what I do. I love my animals; I love nature. I love
Anderson County because I can drive down the road and
see a field and I can see somebody cutting it. I love
the fact that I can source my hay locally versus having
it trucked in from Georgia, another state. And God
only knows at what expense. Okay? I like that I can
do those things. I like that those things exist here
and I have that opportunity. I do. But I’m not a tree
hugger.

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

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

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Let’s hold it down,
please. Let’s wrap it up.

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

Thank you.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Next.

TRINA DAVIS: My name is Trina
Davis and I’m in District 4. And I think I texted with
you back and forth about the possibility of this
meeting -- this being heard in another meeting.
My question to you is if R-20 was good enough in
the past why are you willing to say yes and listen to
the developer instead of voting no and listening to the
people? We don’t want the planned development. We
want our -- you keep -- you mentioned a couple of times
the two hundred and forty mobile homes. Kind of sounds
like you’re against mobile home, and that’s a little
bit prejudice and I have a problem with that. I
started out my life in a mobile home and a mobile home
is a fine place to live.

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

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

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN:  Next. Next
RICHARD BENNETT:  Richard Bennett. I
live at 307 Compass Point. I represent my son who owns
the property. I’ve lived in this community; my father
as well and my mother. I went to Pendleton High School
and my son is in District 4 now. I am the applicant.
This is our property, I guess you call it.
I have -- I did try to reach out, just to comment
on that, at eleven o’clock. I had a meeting per her
but didn’t show up. But what I’m saying in general we
want to reach out to the community. I’ve tried to
reach out. I’ve been -- owned a lot of property. I’ve
developed a lot of property in this area pretty much my
whole life. I had staff recommendation at the start of
the thing. I join a plastic ejection molding plant on
one side, a commercial gas station across the street,
and I have some mobile homes on one side, high tension
power lines on the other. There’s some complex things
going on here, more than just residential farms.
Mostly our zoning out here is R-20.

I think there’s approximately a hundred and twenty
million dollar investment there. That’s three hundred
thousand dollar average house cost, which is probably
higher than some of the surrounding area, which they’re
not asking for any money. I know we gave money away
for different project. A hundred and twenty million
dollars with about a two hundred million dollar impact
for the sewer, which is ten percent I think sewer,
eighteen million dollars. They’ll pay an impact fee of
about two million dollars just to join the sewer.
There should be property taxes of about a million and a half to two million dollars a year off them houses. And then a million of that -- at least a million which is probably seventy percent and a half or so would go straight to the school district. The two hundred and forty houses would have no green space and then they wouldn’t allow us to have the restrictions, the roads, the accesses, restriction buffers, amenities, club house, things like that. That wouldn’t probably go in the neighborhood. We would just cut it a hundred percent up. It is zoned R-20 now.

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

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

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

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

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

With that in mind, thinking about education and the issues that are presented here with this rezoning ordinance, I felt the need to educate myself. So what I did is I actually dove into the purpose and the means and the intents behind the zoning of R-20. I looked into it. I looked into -- on our county website, what does it say this is used for? Why is it important? And what I found is that R-20 is intended to protect
and maintain the quiet and peaceful character of a
community. And also to discourage anything to disrupt
that. I’ve gotten a lot of changes to grow and learn
and really love the community that’s around this area
we’re looking at rezoning today. When I look at the
community, when I look at the character that we see
here displayed tonight, it’s pretty awesome.

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

Thank y’all for your time. It’s good to talk

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Anyone
else?

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

BRETT SANDERS: So moved.

TOMMY DUNN: What’s your motion,
Mr. Sanders? What’s your motion?

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

TOMMY DUNN: Do we have a
second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.


Now discussion.

CINDY WILSON: May I?

TOMMY DUNN: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Having grown up on
the family working farm and continue trying to make the
place support itself, it breaks my heart to see family
farms and farmland around our county being busted up.
The more dense we pack people in, the less pleasant,
the less neighborly those communities become.

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

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

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

I’ll be glad to help, Mr. Sanders.

BRETT SANDERS: Thank you.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.
BRETT SANDERS: Mr. Chairman, I
have one other thing.
TOMMY DUNN: Yes, sir.
BRETT SANDERS: Is there any way
that we can get a list at the white table to where in
the community can -- a pad where they can put their
name and phone number?
TOMMY DUNN: We’ll get something
somewhere. We’ll get Mr. Burns and Ms. Hunter to work
something out up here before we leave.
BRETT SANDERS: Okay. Thank you,
sir.
TOMMY DUNN: Anyone else?
JIMMY DAVIS: Mr. Chair.
TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.
JIMMY DAVIS: Thank you, Mr.
Chair. Thank you all for coming out and speaking your
heart. I can tell you from representing a district
that has one precinct out of many that’s zoned, the
rest of my district is unzoned, and that encompasses
Piedmont and Powdersville, a little place that used to
be a little dot on the map. Now there’s thousands and
thousands and thousands of homes being built. And no
developer comes and asks for input. No developer comes
and asks for, hey, can we sit down with the people
living around and see what fits best?

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

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

The other thing I want to make sure everybody -- we have a master plan in the county. It was done in 2016 and it’s tweaked and done up. And we’ll be doing it again. But regardless of what the master plan says or not, state law, anybody has got a right to ask that
their property be -- or if they buy or stays in the
family -- to ask for it to be reclassification.
They’ve got that right. State law. Regardless.

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

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

Call for the question. All in favor of Mr.
Sanders’ motion, show of hands. All opposed like sign.
I didn’t see, Ms. Wilson, make sure how did you vote?
CINDY WILSON: I voted to pass it
on first reading, giving it ample time to work this
through ---
TOMMY DUNN: It’s unanimous.
CINDY WILSON: --- and then
reevaluate.
TOMMY DUNN: I just want to make
y’all understand, there will be -- Mr. Sanders will
head it up -- there will be -- we’re in some trying
things now within this virus. There will be community
meetings. Someway or another to get it out, if we have
to break it up in things, in that district. Get the
word out. We’re not going -- nothing is going to
happen, second reading or not, council is not meeting
no more in the month of July. So we’ve got time.
Nobody is trying to pull nothing over on nobody.
Promise you that. Have no secret meetings.

We’re going to move on now. Mr. Burns, can you
come up with a way about signing up and getting people
---
RUSTY BURNS: The sign-up sheet
is already on that white table and there’s a pen there
for any member of the community who would like to sign
it.
TOMMY DUNN: Okay. Thank you.

Moving on now to next item, resolutions. We have
none.
Road acceptances into the county inventory. This
will be District 6, Hunters Crossing Subdivision, be
Tracker Court and Scout Court. Do we have a motion to put this on the floor?

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Davis.

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

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

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

So, Mr. Chair, if I may, I would like to make a motion to approve the recommendation from Public Safety
Committee to utilize QRVs manned by paramedics subject to a contract to be negotiated by the County Administrator and the county attorney as discussed and approved by the Public Safety Committee. Further, the County Administrator is authorized to sign the Agreement. And I make this in the form of a motion.

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

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

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

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

JIMMY DAVIS: Yes, sir.

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

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

And that’s all I have, Mr. Chair.

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you.

At this time, indulge me, we’re going to take a quick five minute break. We’re going to be back. Listen to me. When we come back, I want everybody about six foot apart. If you ain’t married the gentleman over there is going to separate you. This -- I’m serious, six foot apart. We’ll be back in five minutes.
TOMMY DUNN: ... two thousand dollars to the American Legion building in Iva. Put that in the form of a motion.

BRETT SANDERS: Second.

TOMMY DUNN: Second Mr. Sanders.

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

Moving on now Administrator’s report.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Moving on now to item number 14, citizens comments. When Mr. Harmon calls your name, you’ve got three minutes and address the chair.

LEON HARMON: Mr. Chairman, before we start there are a few names on here that I simply can’t make out so I’ll do the best I can with them. I apologize in advance if I can’t read your name.

First speaker, Rossi Meadows.

ROSSI MEADOWS: Hello. I’m Rossi Meadows. I’m from Taylors, South Carolina. I’m speaking about the Confederate monument.

I’m a sixth generation South Carolinian. I’m one of seventy million Americans that are descended from these Confederate soldiers. I’m a retired public school teacher and football coach and a voting citizen and not a paid protestor.

I am honored to speak on behalf of the twenty-five thousand South Carolinians that died during this war. They were husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. Many from the Anderson area who died. If the war was today, with today’s population number, it would equal 1.6 million deaths just of South Carolinians. This same number of men returned home with missing arms and legs. A lot of those guys lived until the 1930s. Those wives, sisters, daughters, watched those men. They were reminders of the humanity of how bad it was for these guys for the rest of their lives.

After the war times were hard. It took sixteen years for the ladies of Anderson to raise the money to fund to build this monument that’s out in front of the courthouse. This war memorial was dedicated to honor all sons that fought for the South. There were white, black, Native Americans, Hispanics and Jewish. They were in the army. They were sailors. And they were marines.

Removing this war monument would be the same as moving a tombstone off of a grave. It’s just wrong.
Deuteronomy 19:14 says that thou shalt not remove thy neighbor’s landmarks. And Genesis 6:9 says judge men by the standards of their time. There was only one perfect man and he was Jesus. History is history, warts and all. If we take down Southern monuments, we must take down all U.S. monuments. Let’s use them all as teaching tools. Heck, let’s build some more. Only the Taliban destroys sacred monuments and graves. Thank you for your attention.

TOMMY DUNN: Next.

TOMMY DUNN: Next. Please hold the applause down. This ain’t a town hall meeting.
Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Judith Polson.

JUDITH POLSON: Hello. The Civil War memorials perpetuate racism. They glorify those who fought to preserve slavery as an institution in our country. I’m not proud of that. My relatives fought in this war. But they were wrong. The cause was wrong and the war was wrong. It was wrong to keep slaves. And fighting to keep people enslaved is not something we should be proud of. The Civil War was fought for that very reason. The statue says they were right. Well, they were not right. And at least take those words off the statue. Because you can’t take the words off, they’re written in stone. They’re meant to be passed on to generation and generation and so glorified racism from generation to generation. We were right. White is right. Well, it was wrong then and it’s wrong now. So take the statues down. That’s what I say. And I think that’s the right answer for us.

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

Josh Smith.

TOMMY DUNN: Josh Smith.
MALE: He’s gone.

TOMMY DUNN: Move on.
LEON HARMON: Michael Whitaker.
MIGUEL WHITAKER: Yes. My name is Michael Whitaker. I live in Anderson, South Carolina.

My reason for keeping the monument where it is is simple. Removing it will not fix any of the problems currently plaguing Anderson County. In the past several months countless monuments, cemeteries and museums have been viciously attacked. Many of those monuments that were destroyed had been placed in
cemeteries from their original locations. Our monument
could be no safer than where it is currently located.
It was placed in its current location as a remembrance
to those who did and did not survive that war. It is
also a testimony to a time of brave and noble men. I
had several Confederate ancestors that served in local
regiments. Those same men helped Anderson grow to what
it is now.

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

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

And to address the monument itself, it does not say
anything about slavery and it does not -- it says they
were right, it would prove that they were right. But
if you go to the front of the epithet, it actually --

I had several Confederate ancestors that served in local
regiments. Those same men helped Anderson grow to what
it is now.

Thank you for your time.

TOMMY DUNN: Next.

APPLAUSE

LEON HARMON: Next speaker Marcus Griffis.

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: Address the chair, please.

MARCUS GRIFFIS: Most people in this
state did not volunteer even when secession was passed.

Not even after Fort Sumter was fired on. Only when
Lincoln called for sixty thousand troops to line the
North and South Carolina border did they start signing
up to protect their homes and their property.
Auschwitz. Where 1.1 million people were killed stands today and it stands because the Jewish people stood up and said, keep it here. We want people to know what happened so that it doesn’t happen again.

A little thing, history is not yours to like or dislike. It’s yours to learn from. If it offends you, all the better because then you may not let it happen again. It is not for you to destroy or erase. It is all of ours. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Next.
LEON HARMON: Next speaker, H.K. Edgerton.

H.K. EDGERTON: Members of the council, Mr. Chair. My name is H.K. Edgerton. I am the proud son of the Honorable Reverend Roland Rogers Edgerton and Annabelle Edgerton, a native of Anderson, South Carolina, and the only black woman to ever receive a Confederate State Funeral and has a heritage award in her honor, Order of the Confederate Rose.

Excuse me, sir. I dropped my papers. I’d like to get them back in order.

TOMMY DUNN: Go ahead.
H.K. EDGERTON: Thank you.

I speak today on behalf of the two and a half million Southern bondsmen, bondswomen, freed men and freed women who from 1861 to 1865 loyalty served in support of the Confederate cause in however humble and noble a capacity. Without the untiring sweat of black men, the integrated Confederate Army would have quickly ground to a halt. Black men served as teamsters, cooks, blacksmiths, farriers, laborers, servants and in many cases of the close friend of the white men he accompanied. Many of these black auxiliaries were to prove their worth in combat. Even though by law they could not be compelled to fight and would not be legally allowed to enlist as soldiers until the last days of the war.

Most importantly, was the bond of love and affection between black and white that transcended the institution of slavery and is so incomprehensible to people up north. In cases too numerous to mention, friends, black and white, went off to war together, stand together the hardship of camp life, the comradeship of Army life, the stress of campaigning, the excitement of battle, the agony of the hospital and the painful separation of death. Stories abound of faithful black friends and servants seeing to the comfort of their white friends’ last moments on earth. And with
terrible countenance and broken hearts began the
sometimes difficult and arduous task of obtaining
proper burial for his friend and then bringing the
painful news home.

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

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

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

LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

TOMMY DUNN: I’m sorry, sir.

That’s time. I give you a few more seconds because you
dropped your pages. But that’s good. Thank you.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Next, please.

LEON HARMON: Michael ...

TOMMY DUNN: Sorry. He can’t read. I don’t know how he got through law school.

Michael Adams.

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

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

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

When I hear about monuments being torn down and being taken down, it breaks my heart because I personally have family members on monuments, as well, such as Camp Douglas in Chicago. My family had service in second North Carolina Company K was captured in 1862 and some of my family members were killed in Chicago.

There’s a moment there called Camp Douglas to represent the Confederate veterans. The men are veterans and shall not be forgotten. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Thank you. Next.

LEON HARMON: Angela Winbush Brown.

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

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

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Next.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker Hunter Meadows.
Hey, people, ---

TOMMY DUNN: Address the chair, please.

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

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

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

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

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

Do Southerners have a right to memorialize their ancestors? Why not? The South is the only region of the United States that understands defeat. Southerners suffered the greatest loss of life and treasure fighting for independence. Not even the American Revolution was that bloody. The war crimes committed
against the South are numerous. Mass murder, rape, arson and theft are just a few short terms to describe what went on. Southerners did not ask for reparations ---

LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman. --- nor did they ask for an apology from the ---

HUNTER MEADOWS: Time. Next, please.

TOMMY DUNN: This is my last sentence.

HUNTER MEADOWS: No, that’s it.

Time.

LEON HARMON: Next name I simply cannot read. First name might be Ron. I’m not sure.

TOMMY DUNN: Is Ron here? Ron. We’ll get to it. Go on to next.

LEON HARMON: Next speaker is Tonya Winbush.

TONYA WINBUSH: Hello. My name is Tonya Winbush, District 1, Craig Wooten. I spoke with John Wright, Jr. on Sunday, who will be taking your place very soon, and he agreed with me that the monument needs to be moved to a museum.

And the only thing that I’m asking you all is I want the same courtesy that you all show to the Second Amendment citizens who are supportive of the Second Amendment. The law -- the redline laws are state laws. Therefore those laws, they carry more weight and authority. And the sanctuary people are saying, well, we want to be safe from those laws in case they come to the citizens of Anderson County.

At the same right, the Heritage Act says that it takes authority from Anderson County when it comes to moving a monument, a Civil Rights monument. And so in that instance that’s taken -- because the state has taken that right, I want an ordinance similar to the one, the resources and the gatherings, I want a meeting, I want help from the county council just like you all gave those citizens to the same equality and unity with all citizens being equal, having the same access when they have concerns, I want to have that same discussion in reference to moving this monument to a museum.

I don’t want to argue history because everybody see history through their own eyes. I can read a book that can debate and give history very different from what you just heard. I’m not here to debate that. All I know is, slavery was in South Carolina. The KKK was in
South Carolina when I came back from the army to visit. In '94 or '95, the KKK was having a rally downtown Anderson around this monument. And if it didn’t represent the KKK and the Confederate statue didn’t represent the KKK, then why do they love it so much? I don’t care why. But there’s a -- there is a distinct connection and relation and because we know it causes division, because we know that it is not a place of love and unity, I don’t care how many scriptures you quote. We know what slavery was, what it did, and why it was here. And it is still a part of our existence today. You can still see the remnants of the division and the segregation even in Anderson, South Carolina when my mom as a little girl had to go to the black water fountain or the white water fountain. Not my grandmother, but my mother.

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

APPLAUSE

Next.

Next speaker is Jamie Ashworth.

Next.

Next speaker H.P. Gravely.

Next.

Wayne Whitefield. My name is Wayne Whitefield. I’m from Belton, South Carolina. It’s good to be here tonight and thank you for allowing us to speak our mind. I’m really tired of the South being used as the whipping post, our history being used as a whipping post by the rest of the country when it comes to racial issues. We see what’s going on now in our country with all these statues coming down all over the place. I want to point out a couple of things here that I think might be interesting. One fellow pointed out a while ago that there were twenty-five thousand lives lost by South Carolina. There’s something I want you to know. South Carolina has a distinction. That distinction is that this state sacrificed more lives
per capita than any other state in the war, North or South. Did you know that? One in fourteen South Carolina males lost their life in that war. Sixty thousand South Carolinians marched off to war. Only twenty-five thousand came home.

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

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

And that’s all I’ve got to say.

**APPLAUSE**

**TOMMY DUNN:** Mr. Harmon, next.

**LEON HARMON:** Next speaker, Mary

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

My great grandfather had a small farm on Belton Highway a little bit down from Forest Lawn Cemetery on the other side of the street and it was a small farm. He had it just to support his family and make a living and maybe there were a few other people that had some food that came from that farm. He was a Confederate soldier. And he did this to provide for his family.

I’m sure at the time he thought it was the right thing to do. He was definitely not part of the decision for South Carolina to secede from the Union, but nevertheless this is where he found himself. And I’m sure that he felt that his -- the economic system of the South was threatened. And I’m sure this is what he had in mind when he signed up to be a Confederate soldier.

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

So I’m in favor of keeping the statue the way it
is, a statue to commemorate the efforts of the
Confederate soldiers. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Next.
LEON HARMON: William Brock.
RAY BROCK: Mr. Chairman,
council members. I’m Ray Brock. I’m from Ms. Wilson’s
district. I’ve already spoken with you, Mr. Dunn,
concerning this, and I enjoyed the conversation.
Thanks for returning my phone call.

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

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

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

LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.
TOMMY DUNN: Thank you, Mr.

Brock.
RAY BROCK: Thank you very much. Thank you for your time.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Next.

LEON HARMON: Anthony Arnold.

TOMMY DUNN: Anthony Arnold.

Next.

LEON HARMON: Buddy Compton.

TOMMY DUNN: Buddy Compton.

Next.

LEON HARMON: Mary McAbee.

MARY MCAABEE: Members of council, my name is Mary McAbee. I am a resident of county council District 4. And I’m here tonight to tell you a story. It’s a story of a young farmer who in the spring of 1861 left his home, his wife, his four small children, and his state to go to war. He did not own a large plantation. He did not own a single slave. His state and other states and a new alliance of states were under attack. So this young farmer, Thomas Porter Cooper of the old Quaker Church Community near Hickory Tavern left South Carolina and marched to Virginia to protect his home and his family. Cooper rose to the rank of sergeant in Company C Third Battalion South Carolina Infantry CSA. His unit saw action in and around Richmond in 1861 and 1862. And in early September of 1862 his unit was moved to the small village of Sharpsburg, Maryland. There were several skirmishes between Federal and Confederate troops leading up to the Battle of Antietam on September the 17th in 1862.

Sergeant Cooper did not participate in that bloody battle. He had been wounded and captured in one of the earlier skirmishes. Held as a prisoner of war for almost two months, he was sent back to Richmond after a prisoner exchange. Still suffering from his wounds and already sick with pneumonia, Thomas Cooper was sent to one of the many Richmond hospitals. He died there November 28th, 1862 and was buried somewhere. His family was not with him when he died. His wife could not comfort him. His children could not say goodbye. There was no funeral. There was no ceremony. There was no marker. It took months for the news of his death to reach South Carolina. And so Thomas Cooper, like John Brown, lies a moldering in his grave, a grave unknown to his family to this very day.

How do I know this story? I know this story because it is my personal story. Thomas Porter Cooper was my great grandfather.

I tell this story to stress the reasons to preserve
and display our monuments. My great grandfather has no marker, no memorial, other than the ones like the Anderson County monument to the Confederate dead. It is important to preserve and display these monuments as monuments to the dead and to the past.

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

APPLAUSE

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

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

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

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

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

This is Stewart Jones of the South Carolina House
rights. For those that are arguing history monuments are the root of our problem, I urge them to realize that individual responsibility is the capitalist of freedom. At some point people must stop blaming others and realize that they as an individual are responsible for their own destiny. Tearing down and defacing these monuments are pure Marxist. What we see as happening ---

LEON HARMON: Time, Mr. Chairman.

TOMMY DUNN: Sir, I appreciate it, but it’s time. Next.

APPLAUSE

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

TOMMY DUNN: C.W. Hicks.

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

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

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

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.

LEON HARMON: Connie Paul.

TOMMY DUNN: Connie Paul.

CONNIE PAUL: I’d just like to say I’m in favor of taking the monument down because the monument means one thing to me or to my race of people than it means to others and their race of people.

I have a definition here. A question is asked, what did the Confederates believe in? The Confederate States of America believed in several things that differ from the views of the North. Much of the South believed in the moral integrity of slavery. They believed that American -- African Americans were
inferior to them. They were very protective of their
right to own slaves. I'm in favor of taking the
monument down because we do not need a reminder of the
bad or the history of the bad. I agree we need to move
forward, but we don't need a reminder of slavery.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Next, Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON: Carl Lund.
TOMMY DUNN: Who is that?
LEON HARMON: Carl Lund.
TOMMY DUNN: Carl Lund. Move
on.
LEON HARMON: M.M. Hullett.
TOMMY DUNN: What's that?
LEON HARMON: M.M. Hullett.
TOMMY DUNN: M.M. Hullett.
LEON HARMON: James Allen.
TOMMY DUNN: James Allen.
LEON HARMON: Terry Allen.

Elizabeth Fant.

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

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

I would like to see us move forward with love for
each other, sensitivity, but we don't need to take any
statue down. We don't need to take the Confederate
statue down. We don't need to take Whitaker, who's
just a few feet down. We don't need to start changing
names of sports teams. We don't need to change Wade
Hampton High School. None of that. It's history.

It's history. Oh, well. Yes, oh, well. And once you
start doing that in one place and you destroy history
here and you destroy it there and you destroy it there,
you become a Communist Marxist nation where nobody then
knows what the history was. We need to know what our
history is and we need to learn from it and we need to
move forward and not be slaves to all of this garbage
that’s being fed to us to make us hate each other.
That’s all it is. And we don’t hate each other. We
love each other. But we need to respect each other and
forget about all these things that are so -- they’re
important maybe to you, one thing, but once you start
picking apart life, you’ve picked it apart down to
nothing but bones.

TOMMY DUNN:    Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON:    Next speaker, Brian
Malfris (phonics). Brandon Hawkins.
BRANDON HAWKINS: Brandon Hawkins.

First of all, I just want to thank you guys and
Administrator Burns and our attorney. I think this is
kind of a subjective issue. It’s kind of a waste of
time because the state already has something in place
called the Heritage Act.

And I’ll keep it short and sweet. Those who do not
remember the past are doomed to repeat it.

TOMMY DUNN:    Next, Mr. Harmon.
LEON HARMON:    Carl J. Kelly.
TOMMY DUNN:    Mr. Kelly. Mr.
Harmon.
LEON HARMON:    That’s all that are
signed up, Mr. Chairman.
TOMMY DUNN:    Thank you.

Moving on now further on the agenda ---
LEON HARMON:    Mr. Chairman. You
have one person back there.
TOMMY DUNN:    Yes, sir. You
wasn’t on the list. I’m sorry, you have to sign up
beforehand. Well, I’m sorry. That’s just the way the
rules are. Been like that.

Moving on, remarks from council members. Ms.
Wilson.

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

But I remember when the previous council and
administrator were so hateful and cruel to me in front
of my young daughter at a meeting, Dr. Bee Thompson and
her late husband invited me to come sit with them. So
she has touched my heart and she’s touched a lot of hearts in this community. I can think of no one better to honor than Dr. Bee Thompson.

APPLAUSE

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

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

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

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Wooten.

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

Everybody has their individual right to make up their mind whether they like the monument or they dislike the monument. They have their individual right to make up their mind whether or not they want to interpret the meaning of history in one way versus another. Why one man from Texas went to the Civil War,
versus one man from Virginia can be totally different.
I mean I think nobody can argue the overarching concern
whether it be state’s right or economics was a level of
slavery. And in an historical view, nobody agrees with
that.

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

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

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

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

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

But you know what, they cut our funding to the county but then they take powers to vote on things like this up to the state. So I say send it to the state. Tell them to do their job and make a decision on it. But I’m not going to argue about statues and get everybody worked up and mad at each other in our community when we’ve got to figure out EMS, we’ve got to figure out this jail, we’ve got to figure out police, we’ve got to figure out how to pave the roads, we’ve got to figure out whether or not people’s farmland is disturbed or not so they can have peaceful existence when there’s people who have already taken that authority away from us.

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

Take it to the State House. They passed the Heritage Act. They’re the ones that wanted to decide on it. They need two-thirds or I think the Attorney General said they only need fifty percent plus one. That’s where to take it to. And I’m just going to keep
on trying to make this place a better place and hopefully that we can get to the real meat of the issue because when it comes to the jail, when it comes to EMS, when it comes police, that’s going to affect everybody in this room, black, white, Hispanic. It doesn’t matter. And that’s what I got on county council to do. And quite honestly, all races, all backgrounds that fought in Vietnam, Gulf War, War on Terror, Operation Enduring Freedom, Korea, Panama. I mean there’s a lot of people to remember. And I don’t want to -- I don’t diminish anybody from the Confederacy, but nobody from the Confederacy dying trumps anybody dying in Vietnam. And nobody in Vietnam dying trumps anybody dying in World War I. We’ve got to remember all people that died for our freedoms across the board.

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

That’s my take on it. And it’s getting late.

APPLAUSE

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Sanders.

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

TOMMY DUNN: Mr. Davis.

JIMMY DAVIS: Nothing at this time, sir.

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

Meeting adjourned.

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