

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

August 5, 2024

6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on August 2, 2024.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman
Roy Costner, Vice Chairman
Alex Saitta, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
Chris Lollis
Henry Wilson
C. Claiborne Linvill

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of August 5, 2024, to order and welcome those in attendance. Vice Chairman Roy Costner led the invocation and Veteran William Thad Farmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Chris Bowers opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak.

1. Chad Albertson: Mr. Albertson addressed Council regarding stormwater.

Seeing no other public forum speakers, the Chairman closed the floor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- July 22, 2024 Council Meeting
- July 22, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis to approve the amended minutes. The motion was carried unanimously (5-0), with Councilman Henry Wilson absent during the vote.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Roper addressed Council on the following:

- Update regarding Hurricane Betty
- Discussion on Animal Welfare Stakeholder Engagement Forum that Administration is hosting
- Discussion on Transparency in Government
- Update from Board of Voter Registration and Elections Office

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- Recognition of SCAC President, Roy Costner
- Update regarding Press Release from Pickens Regional Joint Water System

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Monday, August 19, 2024, at 6pm in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- Non-Essential County Offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.
- The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- An informational table is set up in the Lobby this evening with more information about current vacancies and upcoming openings on Pickens County Board and Commissions. If you are interested in serving on a board, please stop by the table or please see the Clerk to Council, Meagan Nations, for more information.

Chairman Chris Bowers called for other council correspondence.

Seeing no other correspondence, Vice Chairman Costner announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Chris Bowers opened the floor for motion period and new business.

- Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to add Pickens Regional Joint Water System to the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Chris Bowers closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

None

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

- PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 644 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 4- 1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO (PROJECT TURN).
 - Chairman Chris Bowers gavelled into Public Hearing and asked if anyone would like to address Council regarding this Ordinance.

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- Seeing no public speakers, the Chairman declared Public Hearing closed.
- Councilman Chris Lollis made a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried (6-0).

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

a) 2024 RECREATION FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- a. Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to approve the recommendations below from the Committee for District 5 recreation funding. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations/ Comments
5	City of Easley	\$ 46,679.02	
5	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 3,333.33	
5	Meals on Wheels	\$ 25,572.35	
DISTRICT 5 TOTAL:		\$ 75,572.35	

CONSENT AGENDA

- Magistrates and Municipal Courts – *Committee of the Whole*
- Consolidation of County Facilities – *Committee of the Whole*
- SDPC – School Resource Officers – *Committee of the Whole*
- Pickens County Regional Joint Water – *Committee of the Whole (added during Motion Period and New Business)*

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill, seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis, and carried unanimously (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Vice Chairman Costner further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Contractual– Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- Proposed contractual agreement regarding approximately 29 acres adjacent to HWY 93, east of Liberty
 - Proposed contractual agreement regarding real property on Garvin Street and operations of the Judicial System
 - Project Flap
- Motion was made by Councilman Chris Lollis and seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five-minute recess.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Contractual– Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- Proposed Contractual Agreement Regarding Approximately 29 Acres Adjacent To Hwy 93, East Of Liberty – ***No Action Taken***
- Proposed Contractual Agreement Regarding Real Property On Garvin Street And Operations Of The Judicial System – ***Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to authorize the purchase of 208 Garvin Street. In Pickens for County judicial purposes to be determined by the County Administrator for \$850,000 from Fund Balance, plus applicable closing costs. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).***
- Project Flap – ***No Action Taken***

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council