

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

October 7, 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 October 4, 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 October 7, 2024, to order and welcome those in attendance. Councilman Chris Lollis led the invocation and Veteran Richard Allen Meyers 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. Paulie Keller: Ms. Keller addressed Council regarding Hurricane Helene.
2. Reba Kruse: Ms. Kruse addressed Council regarding the Hurricane Helene Response.

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:

- September 9, 2024 Council Meeting
- September 30, 2024 Special-Called Meeting
- Motion was made by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis to approve the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Roper addressed Council on the following:

- Pickens County Hurricane Helene Storm Recovery Update
- Hurricane Helene Storm Debris removal plan
- Hurricane Helene Storm Damage Report

Minutes for October 7, 2024, Pickens County Council Meeting

- Agenda Item 11A request to add to agenda: Safety Building Project, and wait on Gateway Signage
- Agenda Item 13 request to add to agenda: Community Input in Executive Session

Questions from Council:

- Update on Debris cleanup
- Update on Solid Waste Dept.
- Update on Construction Debris on October 10
- Update on County Roads that are partially closed
- Responsibility of who opens Highway 178
- Tax Notices Sewer Charge
- Stormwater Permits and Building Permits

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6pm in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.

Chairman Chris Bowers called for other council correspondence.

Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Chris Bowers 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.

- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to change agenda item 11A on the agenda to Safety Building Project, instead of Update on Gateway Signage. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linnell and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add Community Input Committee to Personnel in Executive Session on the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to discuss transaction processing fees for taxes for October to other agenda items. Motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to add discussion on moratorium to other agenda items. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Chris Bowers closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE (MIH) WEEK
 - Chairman Bowers made a motion to consider this Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).

Minutes for October 7, 2024, Pickens County Council Meeting

- FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH GREENVILLE COUNTY PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE, AT THE TIME OF ITS INITIAL DEVELOPMENT, GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN PICKENS COUNTY AND TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 123 AND HIGHWAY 124; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH GREENVILLE COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO
 - Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to constitute first reading in title only of this ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

None

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

a) UPDATE ON SAFETY PROJECT BUILDING

- Dirk Ishawata, Project Manager, introduced Luke Sims and Harrison Polk from McMillian Pazdan Smith Architecture who gave a brief update on the Safety Project Building.
 - Questions and Discussion from Council included:
 - Number of offices in the building
 - Square footage of the building
 - Total cost of project

b) TRANSACTION FEES (AS ADDED DURING MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS)

- Attorney Les Hendricks stated that Council will not be able to take final action on Transaction Fees or the Moratorium tonight, as added during Motion Period and New Business. He stated the Administrator has suspended the implementation of accepting any applications for townhomes and the multi family stuff under the emergency powers of the State of Emergency, until Council can address it. He stated that Council can discuss the two items, but cannot take action without it being on the agenda.
- Discussion on Transaction Fees included:
 - Council suspended transaction fees during Covid
 - Mr. Roper has not acted on this yet due to being able to get County buildings back open after one day of having to closed. The Department of Revenue allowed us to suspend collection of taxes for watercraft, motor vehicles, etc. that were due by September 30th to extend to October 31st, which gives people time to get those payments made. He stated for property taxes, the bills are out but not due until January 15th.

c) DISCUSSION ON MORATORIUM (AS ADDED DURING MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS)

Minutes for October 7, 2024, Pickens County Council Meeting

- The Moratorium has been suspended until further notice under the State of Emergency.
- Discussion included:
 - Discussion on extending the moratorium for 90 days
 - Plan to have a meeting with the Planning Commission

CONSENT AGENDA

- South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Existing Programs and Future Process – *Committee of the Whole*

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Alex Saitta, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, 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.

Personnel– Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Personnel Matter related to Employee Benefits

Contractual– Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- Milliken FILOT Investment Period Extension
- Motion was made by Councilman Chris Lollis and seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill. 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:

Personnel– Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Personnel Matter related to Employee Benefits – No Action Taken

Contractual– Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- Milliken FILOT Investment Period Extension – Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).

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 8:18 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council