

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

June 6, 2022

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 June 2, 2022.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman

Roy Costner, Vice Chairman

Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Alex Saitta

Ensley Feemster

Henry Wilson

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 June 6, 2022 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Ensley Feemster led the Invocation and 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. Tom Hendricks: Mr. Hendricks addressed Council regarding the MRR Lawsuit.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- May 2, 2022 Regular-Called Council Meeting
- May 16, 2022 Special-Called Meeting
- May 31, 2022 Budget Work Session
- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, and seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (5-0), with Councilman Henry Wilson absent during the motion.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Fuel Sales at LQK Airport

Mr. Roper presented information to Council on Fuel Sales at the Pickens County Airport in FY 21 and FY 22. He stated in FY 21, they sold 128,000 gallons for \$530,000 and so far in FY 22, they have sold 159,000 gallons for \$840,000, and still have three of the busiest weeks of the year in FY 22.

Pickens County Leaps "Leadership Enhancement Academy for Public Servants"

Mr. Roper addressed Council regarding the new Pickens County LEAPS Program, which is a seven-week program designed to help aspiring leaders in public services develop a road map for success. Meetings will be held weekly for approximately one hour. He stated each participant will be paired with a mentor who has graduated from the NACo Leadership Academy for optimum leadership growth. He stated he will report back to Council on this program.

Pickens County Public Employee Service Corps

Mr. Roper gave information to Council regarding the Public Employee Service Corps partnership with United Way, which is a part of the Pickens Proud Initiative.

Solid Waste Update

Mr. Roper stated he would like for the Committee or Ad Hoc Committee to meet soon for an updated regarding the Solid Waste Department.

Request to Add Item to Executive Session

Mr. Roper stated he has a request to add an item to Executive Session on this evening's agenda regarding an HR matter regarding a retiree.

Council asked Mr. Roper questions that included, but was not limited to:

- Long Shoals Park
- Bidding for the EMS Medical Control Contract

COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Committee of the Whole met in Council Chambers, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, May 16, 2022. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

DISCUSSION REGARDING DISCOUNTED VETERAN ACCESS TO PICKENS COUNTY PARKS – Log No. 204

- Mr. Roper stated that Pickens County currently offers a \$3 discount per night for seniors (65+), disabled and military on campsites and boat dock slips. He stated we offer \$10/night on cabins. Mr. Roper advised that Oconee County does not offer any discounts on camping reservations but do offer a free annual parker pass to Oconee County residents who are Seniors (62+), Veterans or legally disabled. He stated he feels this may be a staff problem, that we have not publicized this enough for the public to know about these discounts.
- Council and staff had detailed discussion regarding discounted Veteran access to Pickens County Parks.
- ❖ **Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion on creating a program with the Veteran Affairs Office for Veterans to be offered discounts to use Pickens County Parks. Motion was seconded by Councilman**

Henry Wilson. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

COUNCIL ACTION REGARDING LOG NO. 204 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion on creating a program with the Veteran Affairs Office for Veterans to be offered discounts to use Pickens County Parks. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

No second is required as this comes as a recommendation from the Committee. Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

BUDGET WORK SESSION – Log No. 172

- Emergency Services Director Billy Gibson presented a presentation of the Emergency Services Budget to Council. His discussion included, but was not limited to:
 - Goals set by Council
 - Emergency Services Effects: Public Safety, Economic Development and Insurance Premiums
 - Plan to accomplish Goals
 - Discussion on Map of Fire District Employee Count with Number of Response Calls
 - Discussion on Obstacles that EMS face: Funding, Costs, Personnel
 - Discussion on Opportunities: Funding, Costs, Personnel, Future
 - County Fire Millage and Tax for Residential Property, Commercial Property, Vehicle, Agricultural Property, 6% Agricultural Property & 6% Vacant Land
 - Cost / Benefit of Investing
 - EMS Issue: call volume continues to increase
 - Unit Hour Utilization Chart
 - EMS Proposal: Staff a 12 hour “power shift” to assist during the peak call times
 - Mr. Gibson presented 5 different options on total truck and personnel costs
 - Funding

Council had discussion that included, but was not limited to:

- ISO
- Total number of response calls in 2021
- Formal authority of Emergency Services Board
- Number of backup vehicles on EMS and Fire

❖ **No Action Taken by the Committee.**

COUNCIL ACTION REGARDING LOG NO. 172 – No Action Taken by the Committee.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- There will be a Special-Called Meeting on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Administration Facility.
- The Committee of the Whole meeting will be on Monday, June 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- Non-Essential County Offices will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Minutes for June 6, 2022 Pickens County Council Meeting

- The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.

Chairman Bowers called for other council correspondence. Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman 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.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to add Solid Waste Discussion to the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to add Council Rules regarding public input to the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add HR Retiree Discussion to Executive Session under personnel. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Bowers closed the floor.

REQUEST FOR THE COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GPATS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (CITY OF CLEMSON)

Andy Blondeau, City of Clemson Administrator, thanked Council for considering this request. He stated the City of Clemson has received \$215,000 from GPATS to conduct a Regional Transportation Study. Anderson County has agreed to participate at \$25,000, and the City of Clemson is also going to participate at \$25,000. He stated they are asking if Pickens County would like to participate as well. He stated if Pickens County participates, you will be able to designate a person to serve on a committee that will help define the scope of this project and help select the firm that will be conducting the study. He stated Council will also get a deliverable and have a presentation made to a work session or council meeting with the results from the study.

Chairman Bowers asked if Council had any questions.

Councilman Whitehurst asked what the scope of what this money will do.

Mr. Blondeau stated a lot of the scope will be determined by the partners who are participating in it. He stated the Committee will decide what that full scope is but the main purpose of the study is because we are now a large, urban area and we are behind the ball as far as funding for major projects and a study is required for us to be on the list of preferred projects moving forward.

Vice Chairman Roy Costner asked if Oconee County was participating, and if not, did they chose not to?

Mr. Blondeau stated Oconee County is not participating and they chose not to participate.

Councilman Saitta asked if the \$215,000 was coming from the GPATS study. He stated he does not have a strong opinion on it.

Chairman Bowers asked how much the cost of the study will be.

Mr. Blondeau stated he believes it will be around \$300,000 to get a good study from a major transportation planning firm.

- After much more discussion, Councilman Ensley Feemster made a motion to fund at \$25,000 and have a seat at the table with this transportation committee to perform and oversee this regional transportation study. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2022-19 RECOGNIZING SCOUT MEMBERS IN PICKENS COUNTY BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOPS WHO ACHIEVED EAGLE RANK

Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2022-19.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Bowers read the Resolution aloud and recognized the Scout Members in Pickens County Boy Scouts of America Troops who achieved Eagle Rank.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE UNIFORM ORDINANCE FOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (AS PREVIOUSLY ENACTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 404, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 405, ORDINANCE NO. 571, AND ORDINANCE NO. 509) TO CONSOLIDATE THE REMAINING FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS INTO A SINGLE UNIFIED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT; AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 BUDGET; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO

Chairman Bowers opened the public hearing for comments regarding this Ordinance. The following speakers addressed Council:

1. Tom Smith
2. Carl Hudson
3. Doug Stokes

Seeing no other speakers, Chairman Bowers declared the public hearing closed.

- Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to constitute second reading of this Ordinance. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, and seconded by Ensley Feemster. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.

Council had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:

- Current Structure vs. Millage
- C.D. Rhodes, Attorney with Pope Flynn, went into discussion on taxing districts and more information regarding the draft Ordinance
- Vineyards Fire District
- Bonds
- Chairman Bowers stated that more discussion will take place before third reading

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- Chairman Bowers asked that all those in favor of second reading of this ordinance, to please signify by raising your hands. Motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Trey Whitehurst opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS AND LIMITATIONS ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 11 SCENIC BYWAY AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Bowers opened the public hearing for comments regarding this Ordinance. The following speakers addressed Council:

1. Brandie Outz
2. Rivers Stillwell
3. Chris Lupo
4. Sean Hinton
5. Richard Outz

Seeing no other speakers, Chairman Bowers declared the public hearing closed.

- Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to commit this Ordinance to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner.
 - Council had detailed discussion regarding this Ordinance.
- Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE 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 QUESO).

Chairman Bowers opened the public hearing for comments regarding this Ordinance.

Seeing none, Chairman Bowers declared the public hearing closed.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance.

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ADOPTION OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CHANGES FOR PICKENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022.

Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ADVANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF PICKENS COUNTY TO THE PICKENS COUNTY AIRPORT ENTERPRISE FUND, PROVIDING FOR THE REPAYMENT OF SAID GENERAL FUNDS BY REVENUES AND/OR GRANT FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Solid Waste Discussion (*as added during motion period and new business*)
- Modified Council Rules regarding Public Comment (*as added during motion period and new business*)
- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and approved unanimously (6-0), to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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). Chairman Bowers further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- HR Personnel
- HR Personnel regarding Retiree (*as added during motion period and new business*)

Contractual– Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Project Go West
- Project Efficiency

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and 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)

- HR Personnel – **No Action Taken**
- HR Personnel regarding Retiree (*as added during motion period and new business*)- **No Action Taken**

Contractual– Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Project Go West – **Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion for first reading in title only of, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE-IN-LIEU-OF-TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS *PROJECT GO WEST*, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE SUBSIDIARIES, AFFILIATES, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, LESSORS OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY; (2) THE BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY AND THE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).**
- Project Efficiency – **No Action Taken**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council