

Special Called County Council Meeting

June 13, 2022

6:00 PM

County Council met in special session, with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on June 9, 2022.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman

Roy Costner, Vice Chairman

Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Alex Saitta

Henry Wilson

Ensley Feemster (absent)

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Les Hendricks, Contract County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of June 13, 2022 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Chris Bowers led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers and carried (3-2), with Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.

THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES IN PICKENS COUNTY FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, AND TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE THEREOF.

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

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Chairman Chris Bowers stated we will go into discussion on any amendments Council would like to make.

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

COLA for Pickens County Employees

- Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to allocate 5% COLA across the board and revisit the 1% targeted idea in the next budget year. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson.

- After much detailed discussion, Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to amend the original motion, to pay for the 1% targeted raise by freezing the Library budget at 2.7. Councilman Saitta seconded this motion.
- After more discussion between Council, Councilman Henry Wilson retracted his motion.
- Councilman Henry Wilson moved to amend the original motion, stating he would like to go from 4% to 5% in the COLA, and add the 1% for targeted raises to be discussed at a later discussion. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner.
- After more discussion between Council, Councilman Henry Wilson retracted his motion.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to allocate a 5% COLA for Pickens County Employees, add 1% for discretionary to be taken from the budget to offset capital, which will come from fund balance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (5-0).

EMS Staff and GEAR Program

- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to add EMS Staff and use the GEAR Program to offset costs. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Library Budget

- Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to freeze the Library Budget at the proposed operating budget, and the extra \$270,000 in savings will be allocated to the 1% pay raise. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (5-0).

Clerk to Council Training

- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to allocate \$2,500 for Clerk to Council Training out of Fund Balance. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).

Fire Fee

- Council and Staff had very detailed discussion regarding the Fire Fee structure within Pickens County. Council also discussed the different stations, call times, etc.
- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to temporarily suspend the Council Rules to allow a speaker during the meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0).
- Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion regarding fire services to fund operating expenses only, including the 10 positions, and to fund capital that was presented out of fund balance, to potentially be refunded by ARPA Funding. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried (3-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Trey Whitehurst opposed.

Council and Staff had other detailed discussion that included:

- Clemson Paw Partners
- Mr. Roper stated that one thing on our Capital Improvement Plan that has not been implemented thus far (this budget year) were the changes to the scale house and scale house roads to modernize to work more efficiently. He stated for example, our landfill doesn't accept credit cards and you can only use cash at the moment. He stated this was in the Capital Improvement Plan this year and Council has already voted to approve, but because of buying the shredder and other things we were doing there functionally changing the operations around, we are just now to the point of putting that out to bid. He stated he needs Council to vote under section 8 of the budget ordinance

to carry that over to the next budget. He stated the money has already been allocated, it just needs to be carried over.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner to add the amendment to carry over this request of section 8 in the budget ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (5-0).

- Seeing no other discussion on the Budget Ordinance, the motion for the ordinance passed (3-2), with Councilman Alex Saitta and Councilman Trey Whitehurst opposed.

ADJOURN:

Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (5-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council