

Special Called County Council Meeting

January 30, 2021

10:00 AM

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 January 27, 2020.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman

Roy Costner, Vice Chairman

Trey Whitehurst

Alex Saitta

Henry Wilson

Ensley Feemster

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of January 30, 2021 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Ensley Feemster led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Summary of Work Session for Council Goals and Objectives:

The discussion of budgetary items included, but not limited to the following:

- Review of 2020 Council Goals
 1. Maintain Conservative Budget
 2. Broaden Economic Development
 3. Plan for Capital Expenditures
 4. Establish Sustainable Road Maintenance
 5. Develop Comprehensive Tourism Approach
 6. Advance Unified Emergency Services
- Discussion on where Council would like to see Pickens County “go” in future: the discussion included, but was not limited to the following:
 - Keep cities exactly where they are
 - Provide basic government services
 - Protect quality of life
 - Emphasis on living in Pickens County but working in a different county
 - Preserving and protecting what we naturally have
 - Make Pickens County the place to work for First Responders
 - Magnetic Culture in Pickens County
 - Build on existing strengths

- Discussion on 2021 Goals; the discussion included, but not limited to the following:
 - Operational Efficiency
 - Capital budget/understanding long term planning
 - Health care – exploring self-insured
 - Personnel efficiency
 - Facing unintended consequences with recycling centers
 - Look into creative ideas within recycling to grow revenue
 - Landfill
 - Roads
 - Build on existing brand and strengths
 - Bring in municipalities for unity
 - Unified vision of all players
 - Communication efforts
 - Litter control officer in peace
 - Consistency in marketing and branding
 - Specifically define who Pickens County is
 - Emergency Services
 - Revenue funding
 - Long-term capital
 - Structure of services
 - Allocation of resources
 - Collective bargaining
 - Training (expanding/continuing education)
 - Reduce costs than grant funding
 - Employee Staff (70% budget)
 - Training next level
 - Using employee's surveys
 - Rewarding employee innovation
 - Looking for ways to incentivize employees
 - Town Hall- recognition of employees
 - Recognition for service
 - Culture (safe place to work, accountability, enjoyment, honest, fair)
 - Grievance policy

ADMINISTRATORS CONTRACT

- Vice Chairman Roy Costner moved to enter in executive session to discuss the Administrator's Contract, as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a) (1). Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (5-0), with Councilman Henry Wilson abstaining due to having to leave the meeting early.

Chairman Chris Bowers called the session back to order. There was no action taken on the item discussed during executive session.

ADJOURN:

Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council