

Pickens County Council
Budget Work Session Report
Thursday, June 3, 2021
6:00 PM
Main Conference Room
222 McDaniel Avenue
Pickens, SC 29671

Pickens County Council met to hold a work session to discuss the FY 2021-2022 proposed budget. Chairman Chris Bowers presided with all members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman
Roy Costner, Vice Chairman
Trey Whitehurst
Ensley Feemster
Alex Saitta
Henry Wilson

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council
Les Hendricks, Contract County Attorney
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

Chairman Bowers stated he asked Council over the past few weeks to send in anything they would like to discuss during this Budget Work Session before Second Reading takes place next week at the Council Meeting.

Recreation Funding Requests

Chairman Bowers stated some of the committee recommendations have been amended by Council.

- After detailed discussion between District 6's applications and recommendations, Councilman Henry Wilson stated he would like to approve the following disbursements from the recreation fund account for District 6. He stated the Summit Soccer Dacusville Request and Dacusville Recreation Association Request have been through the Committee, but the Dacusville Library Request did not go through the Committee. He stated the Dacusville Library is solely funded by the Community club and library book sales. He stated they are requesting \$3,000 to replace the aging desktops and for additional laptops, and will also need help from the IS Department on internet speeds/to set up the new computers.
- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion to approve the following disbursements below from the recreation funding account for District 6 for Summit Soccer Dacusville & Dacusville Recreation Association, and to send the Dacusville Library request to the Rec Committee for their recommendations. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount	Additional Recommendations
6	Summit Soccer Dacusville	\$ 9,528.52	
6	Dacusville Recreation Association	\$ 6,079.00	

6	Dacusville Library	\$	TBD	<i>Waiting on Committee to meet to make recommendations</i>
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:		\$	15,607.52	

- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion for Pickens County lawn maintenance employees to cut grass at Dacusville facility. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated if we do this for Dacusville, we have to be fair to do for all municipalities in Pickens County.
 - Chairman Bowers asked if we own the property and do we cut the grass at all county facilities we own.
 - Mr. Roper stated yes, we do own this property but no, we do not cut grass at all county owned property.
 - Councilman Henry Wilson gave more detail about why they need help with the lawn maintenance at this facility.
 - Councilman Alex Saitta stated he would like to know which buildings we own, which buildings we lease, and what services do we provide for each property.
 - Chairman Bowers asked what it would cost for us to take over the lawn maintenance at Dacusville.
 - Mr. Roper stated he cannot give an exact number this evening but it really would just be labor.
- After more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner amended the motion, stating he would like to make a motion to upkeep lawn maintenance at county-owned land that county does not currently have a lease/agreement with. Councilman Ensley Feemster seconded the motion.
 - Councilman Alex Saitta stated he will not be voting for this, since we do not know what the costs will be. He stated he would like to know the costs.
 - Chairman Bowers stated he would like to know the costs by the next meeting if possible.
 - Mr. Hendricks asked the Chairman if he could change the motion to categorize the property on “county-owned property”.
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner amended his motion, stating he would like to add the categories in before final vote. Councilman Ensley Feemster seconded the motion and carried 5-1, with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.
- Seeing no other discussion, the amended motion carried 5-1, with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.

Library

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

- Councilman Alex Saitta gave an explanation of his proposal on why he is trying to slow the rate of revenue growth so we do not just keep piling money and savings into their account.
 - High Inflation in today's society
 - Upstairs meeting area at Hampton Memorial Library
 - Library's saving account
 - How the Education Millage is determined
 - Library Budget Page in Notebook
- After much more discussion between Council, Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to make a local commitment from county government to fund the library at 3.2 million, which is above the required amount of the state. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried (4-2), with Councilman Ensley Feemster and Vice Chairman Roy Costner opposed.

Litter Control Officers

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

- Cost of Litter Control Officers = around \$194,878
 - ❖ Estimated \$125,000 = Salaries and Benefits
 - ❖ Estimated \$64,000 = Vehicles (out of fund balance)
 - ❖ Reoccurring costs = \$124,878
 - Different options to pay for these two positions
- Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to use \$130,878 from the Sheriff's Office Budget to fund the two Litter Control Officers positions. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously (6-0).
- The motion reallocated \$130,878 of the Sheriff's Office 2021-2022 budget request to fund two litter control officers. The sheriff's 2021-22 funding was \$15,761,184 or a year over year increase of \$39,898.

Emergency Services/EMS

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

- Staff looked at ways for Emergency Services to take over EMS Dispatch at the Sheriff's Office
 - Facility downstairs at EOC is not big enough
 - Sheriff open to having conversation with Council on this item
 - September Committee Meeting – Council would like a detailed, written plan on how this transition would work
- Councilman Henry Wilson made a motion for staff to come up with a plan to go live on moving EMS Dispatch to the County Level by the next Budget Cycle. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Coroner's Office – Deputy Coroner

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

- Discussion on adding a Deputy Coroner position
 - Discussion on moving the Administrative Assistant position from part-time to full-time
 - Problems the Coroner is having, i.e.: one person, no time off (vacation, sick time, etc.), long wait times between visiting sites if busy, etc.
 - Autopsies costs, etc.
 - Secretary/Admin Assistant Duties
 - Council would like more information on pay
- Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to create a Deputy Coroner position and for staff to gather more information from the Coroner to bring back to Council before second reading. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster.
- After more discussion between Council, Vice Chairman Roy Costner withdrew his motion, stating he would like for staff to gather more information before making final motion. Councilman Ensley Feemster withdrew his second.

COLA Pay Increase

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

- 2% vs. 3% COLA Discussion
- Discussion on Employee Performance Evaluation by Department Heads in future
- SCAC Compensation Data between all Counties in SC
- Merit-Based Scale

- After much more discussion, Councilman Alex Saitta made a motion to implement the 2% COLA increase and use the other 1% to go towards departments who positions pay needs increasing. Motion was seconded by Chairman Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

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

- Rescue Squads
- Emergency Services in the long run/Capital Budget
- Economic Development
- Evaluation of Existing Industry and Workforce Development Manager for County/School District
- Possibility of future internship at Career and Technology Center for Fire and EMS
- Possibility of new position at Alliance Pickens – Project Manager

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-1), with Councilman Henry Wilson absent from the room. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:59 p.m.