

Special Called County Council Meeting

April 13, 2021

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 April 6, 2021.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman

Roy Costner, Vice Chairman

Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Ensley Feemster

Alex Saitta

Henry Wilson

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 April 13, 2021 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Roy Costner led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 597 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE FOR PROPERTY AT THE PICKENS COUNTY AIRPORT.

Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to constitute second reading of Ordinance No. 597.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and the motion approved (5-0).

(Councilman Henry Wilson was not present at the beginning of the meeting when the motion was made.)

UPDATE REGARDING LITTER PROGRAM

Mr. Roper presented #PickUpPickens, A Keep Pickens County Beautiful Program to Council. He stated that Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department created this document for Council.

Overview

Mr. Roper gave an overview of the program, stating that at the directive of County Council, the Pick Up Pickens program was developed in an effort to clean up 25% of roads in the county in 2021. He stated the program is housed under Keep Pickens County Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, focuses on litter reduction, education and recycling. He stated clean communities are safe communities, good for tourism and economic development, and a source of pride for residents. Mr. Roper advised that partner organizations are invaluable to keeping our county clean, and incentivizing our residents and civic organizations to participate in litter pickups helps us toward our goal of being a litter-free community.

Program Components

Mr. Roper gave an overview of the program components:

- Eligible Organizations: to apply and participate in the Pick Up Pickens program, a nonprofit organization, school, business or civic group must:
 - ❖ Have been in existence for at least one (1) year prior to date of application submittal
 - ❖ Provide proof of 501 (c)(3) status (if applying as a nonprofit organization)
 - ❖ Submit a W-9 form
 - ❖ Provide proof of liability insurance and agree to sign individual liability waivers
 - ❖ Not be a representative of or affiliated with any political party
 - ❖ All participants must be at least 16 years old on application submittal date
- Application Process:
 - ❖ There will be a designated 1-month long application window with a hard deadline, annual
 - If there are not enough applications received during application window, can either extend the deadline or accept applications on a rolling basis until all assignments are filled for the year.
 - ❖ Organizations will apply via an online application, hosted either on the website or app
 - ❖ Applicants will be able to view a map and/or list of eligible roads online
 - ❖ Applicants should provide on the application an estimation of the number of people they have who will participate in their cleanup
 - ❖ Applicants may apply for a certain number of miles (not to exceed 10 miles/year), and may also input their preference of clean up location. Neither of these will be guaranteed and will depend on both the total number of applications received and the order in which the applications are received.
 - ❖ Organizations must reapply annually, and are not guaranteed to be assigned the same number of miles or the same location from year to year.
 - ❖ There will be no waiting list, interested groups must reapply annually.
 - ❖ Applications will be automatically forwarded to a separate Pick Up Pickens email account, to be monitored by the County employee.
 - ❖ County employee will:
 - Review all applications, and assign roads and mileage to eligible organizations/groups
 - Notify all applications if their application was approved or rejected
 - If approved, will include road and mileage assignment
 - Approved organizations will be sent liability waivers. All individuals of an organization who are participating in a cleanup must fill out and sign a liability waiver, and return to the county.
 - Forward the information for all approved organizations and paperwork to Finance
- Verification Process:
 - ❖ All assigned road segments will be cleaned one (1) time annually through the Pick Up Pickens program
 - ❖ Organizations may schedule their cleanup for any date within the next 12 months, but must notify the county employee at least one (1) week prior to scheduled cleanup date.
 - ❖ At the litter clean up, organizations must:
 - Take before and after photos of their assigned stretch of road
 - Clean both sides of the roads and split highways

- Clean from edge of payment to tree line, property line, or other reasonable physical obstruction
 - Not responsible for cleaning up hazardous materials
 - Record the number of full bags picked up, and any other items such as tires, furniture, etc.
 - Remove all trash bags from the area at the conclusion of the cleanup event via truck or trailer with a covering, and dispose of properly at a designated waste facility
 - Submit a follow-up report within 1 week of conclusion of event
 - Return borrowed trash grabbers within 1 week of conclusion of event
- The county employee will verify in person that cleanup of the entire road segment was completed.
- Award of Funds
 - ❖ Upon verification of road cleanup, organizations will be awarded a sum of \$250 per mile cleaned
 - ❖ This will be sent by Pickens County via check or direct deposit within 30 days of clean up completion
 - ❖ In the event that the litter cleanup cannot be verified via photos or in person, and/or if it was not completed to reasonable “clean” standards, the organization may schedule another litter cleanup of their road segment. All clean ups must be completed within the original 12-month time span in order to be eligible for award of funds. If the organization does not complete a cleanup within this time frame, no funds will be awarded. The organization will not be eligible to reapply for the program if their cleanup is not completed.
- Program Components
 - ❖ Mr. Roper explained the costs of supplies from Lowes or Amazon, stating the estimated cost per participant would be \$4.70 (safety vest \$3.50 and work gloves \$1.20), trash grabbers and trash bags not included in cost.
 - ❖ He explained the liability form all participants would have to fill out.
 - ❖ Resource Library- Mr. Roper advised the resource toolkit will be available on the Pick-Up Pickens portion of the county website, and will include:
 - Safety video
 - Liability waivers for groups to download and return
 - Safety handout
 - Litter cleanup tips handout
 - Checklist for Pick Up Pickens cleanup and explanation of steps to complete
 - Follow up report for groups to download and return

Marketing Campaign

Mr. Roper gave an overview of the marketing campaign, stating the name “Pick Up Pickens” was chosen to encourage residents to take pride in Pickens County and motivate them to Keep Pickens County Beautiful. He stated the logo is cohesive with Pickens County and Keep Pickens County Beautiful’s logos and branding. He stated #PickUpPickens will be the official hashtag for this program. Mr. Roper went into detail explaining the advertising methods and advertising flyers.

Mr. Roper shared a letter from Palmetto Pride to Council, and shared the highest visibility roads in Pickens County. He also shared staff recommendations, giving more information on Adopt-A-Highway, Mini Grant Program and App Development.

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

- Beautification Committee responsibilities
 - Inmate Litter Pick-Up Crews
 - SCDOT Program on Litter Pickup
 - Team Up and Clean Up, Five on Fridays, etc.
 - Grants
 - Marketing campaign – getting news broadcasters involved
 - Discussion on short term and long term solving litter program
 - Sustainable program
 - Labor Day Start Date
- After much more discussion, Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to accept the program and begin accepting applications immediately (first come, first served), with a start date of August 1, 2021 and a goal to have the roads clean by the end of August. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

ADJOURN:

Chairman Chris Bowers asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Roy Costner, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council