

Special-Called Pickens County Council Meeting

April 17, 2023

6:00 PM

County Council met in special-called 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 March 8, 2023.

Council Members in Attendance:

- Chris Bowers, Chairman
- Roy Costner, Vice Chairman
- Alex Saitta, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
- Chris Lollis
- Henry Wilson
- C. Claiborne Linvill (absent)

Staff in Attendance:

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

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of April 17, 2023 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Vice Chairman Roy Costner led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- o March 13, 2023 Special-Called Council Meeting
- o Motion was made by Councilman Alex Saitta, and seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner. Seeing no discussion, the motion carried unanimously (4-0). Councilman Henry Wilson was not present for the vote.

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE NO. 623

Ralph Guarino and Ken Roper gave a detailed presentation of the Budget Amendment Ordinance.

OVERVIEW OF FY 2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE NO. 624

Ralph Guarino presented a presentation and went into great detail on the following:

- **Total Budget for All Funds**
 - Mr. Guarino went into explanation on the Total Budget for all funds, which included FY 2023 and FY 2024
 - **Financial Highlights**
 - Balanced Budget
 - No tax increase for any fund
 - 3% COLA adjustment for all employees

- Positions
 - 54 positions were requested, only 11 recommended
 - Capital
 - Capital was considered in the fall of 2022 and reflected in the FY24 budget
 - 15% for Property - \$140,452
 - 10% for Liability
 - 8% for Medical Insurance - \$187,876
 - 1% for Retirement System
 - 18% increase for fuel costs - \$203,160
 - 40% increase for repairs to vehicles \$405,820
- **General Fund**
- Increased revenues by \$8.1 million
 - Taxes
 - Investment Income
 - Local Government Fund
 - Election Reimbursement
 - Library Revenue
 - Moved Library from Special Revenue Fund to General Fund
 - Compensation study
 - Public relations consultant
 - Election costs for FY 2024
- **Other Funds**
- Tri-County Technical College
 - Fund balance will not be used for funding
 - TCTC has not submitted request for FY 2024
 - Fixed Nuclear Fund
 - No change
 - Library Fund
 - Moved to General Fund
 - Commerce Park
 - No Change
 - Victim Service Fund
 - Supplement operations by General Funds since fines are declining
 - Emergency Telephone
 - No change
 - State Accommodations Tax Fund
 - Increase in revenue, can be used for tourism related costs
 - Local Accommodations Tax Fund
 - Increase in revenue; can be used for tourism related costs
 - Road Maintenance Fee Fund
 - No change
 - Recreation Fund
 - No change
 - Road Maintenance
 - No change

- Road Reserve
 - No change
 - Escheatment
 - Collections of escheated funds
 - Pickens Alliance Fund
 - No change
 - Conservation Fund
 - New fund that was enacted by Council in December
 - Public Service Commission
 - Increase rate by .xx cents to cover costs of deferred maintenance on the treatment plans
 - Airport Fund
 - No change
 - Fire Districts
 - Purchase two fire trucks (will pay cash for trucks)
- Value of a Mil
- Millage Rates
- **Council had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:**
 - Budget for Rescue
 - Code Enforcement Officer Budget
 - Discussion on hiring litter crews
 - EMS Shifts
 - Comparison of Revenue between this year and future budget year
 - Discussion on the new fire trucks
 - Fire staff
 - Staff vacancies
 - Sewer capacity
 - Public Service Commission
 - Economic Development
 - Sheriff's Office // School Resource Officers
 - School District
 - Public Safety

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.

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- ATAX Committee
- Motion was made by Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (5-0), to convene in executive session.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- **ATAX Committee – Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion to appoint Jackie Soladay to the ATAX Committee in the Restaurant seat. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson and carried unanimously 5-0.**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Council adjourned the meeting to move to the Committee of the Whole meeting. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council