

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL AS A WHOLE REPORT

Council Members:

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
Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

The Committee of the Whole met in Council Chambers, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Monday, May 16, 2022. All members of the committee were in attendance with Chairman Chris Bowers presiding.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

DISCUSSION REGARDING DISCOUNTED VETERAN ACCESS TO PICKENS COUNTY PARKS – Log No. 204

- Mr. Roper stated that Pickens County currently offers a \$3 discount per night for seniors (65+), disabled and military on campsites and boat dock slips. He stated we offer \$10/night on cabins. Mr. Roper advised that Oconee County does not offer any discounts on camping reservations but do offer a free annual parker pass to Oconee County residents who are Seniors (62+), Veterans or legally disabled. He stated he feels this may be a staff problem, that we have not publicized this enough for the public to know about these discounts.
- Council and staff had detailed discussion regarding discounted Veteran access to Pickens County Parks.
- ❖ **Vice Chairman Roy Costner made a motion on creating a program with the Veteran Affairs Office for Veterans to be offered discounts to use Pickens County Parks. Motion was seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

BUDGET WORK SESSION – Log No. 172

- Emergency Services Director Billy Gibson presented a presentation of the Emergency Services Budget to Council. His discussion included, but was not limited to:
 - Goals set by Council
 - Emergency Services Effects: Public Safety, Economic Development and Insurance Premiums
 - Plan to accomplish Goals
 - Discussion on Map of Fire District Employee Count with Number of Response Calls
 - Discussion on Obstacles that EMS face: Funding, Costs, Personnel
 - Discussion on Opportunities: Funding, Costs, Personnel, Future

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- County Fire Millage and Tax for Residential Property, Commercial Property, Vehicle, Agricultural Property, 6% Agricultural Property & 6% Vacant Land
- Cost / Benefit of Investing
- EMS Issue: call volume continues to increase
- Unit Hour Utilization Chart
- EMS Proposal: Staff a 12 hour “power shift” to assist during the peak call times
- Mr. Gibson presented 5 different options on total truck and personnel costs
- Funding

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

- ISO
- Total number of response calls in 2021
- Formal authority of Emergency Services Board
- Number of backup vehicles on EMS and Fire

- ❖ **Councilman Ensley Feemster made a motion to move out of Committee for third reading. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and carried unanimously (6-0). Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.