

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

August 8, 2022

6:00 PM

County Council met in regular 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 July 28, 2022

Council Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the meeting of August 8, 2022 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Alex Saitta led the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Chris Bowers opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak.

1. Melanie Synakowski: Mrs. Synakowski addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
2. Mark Kilburn: Mr. Kilburn addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
3. Barry Meyers: Mr. Meyers addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
4. Daniel DeWitt: Ms. DeWitt addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
5. Tom Baer: Mr. Baer addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
6. Richard McWay: Mr. McWay addressed Council regarding COVID-19.
7. Stephen Smith: Mr. Smith addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
8. Rick Synakowski: Mr. Synakowski addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.
9. Allan Quinn: Mr. Quinn addressed Council regarding tax notices.

10. Bryan Grant: Mr. Grant addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- June 13, 2022 Special-Called Meeting
 - July 7, 2022 Regular-Called Council Meeting
 - July 7, 2022 Work Session
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- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, and seconded by Councilman Henry Wilson. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.
 - Councilman Saitta made a motion to amend to change the June 13th Special-Called Meeting, under the Library Budget. He stated he would like to freeze the Library revenue equal to the proposed spending, and the additional \$270,000 in savings would be allocated to the extra 1% pay raise. The motion was seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers. Seeing no other discussion, the amended motion carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Seeing no other discussion, the original motion carried unanimously (6-0).

PUBLIC FORUM:

Attorney Les Hendricks stated he would like to make Chairman Bowers and Council aware that if they would like to extend the Public Forum for the additional nine citizens to speak this evening, then their rules allow them to do so.

- Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson to extend Public Forum for the remaining nine speakers. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst.
 - Councilman Whitehurst stated this is the first time we've seen this ordinance rewritten and we have not had a Committee meeting to discuss, and he would like to possibly make a motion to move to Committee for discussion.
- After more discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

11. Jan McCrary: Ms. McCrary addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

12. Chris Lupo: Mr. Lupo addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

13. Rivers Stillwell: Mr. Stillwell addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

14. Ken Smith: Mr. Smith addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

15. Teresa Lewis: Ms. Lewis addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

16. Sean Hinton: Mr. Hinton addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

17. Jeff Gowder: Mr. Gowder addressed Council regarding the Highway 11 Ordinance.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Hiring Heroes

Mr. Roper updated Council on the Hiring Heroes marketing campaign program happening in Pickens County.

Council Goals

One of Council's Goals is to promote a culture of public service. Mr. Roper stated that Ten at the Top came out with an article on Pickens County promoting Public Service, and in the article the following is recognized: Pickens County Leadership Enhancement Academy for Public Servants, Hiring Heroes & Public Employee Service Corps.

SCAC Awards

Mr. Roper stated Pickens County was the 2022 Honorable Mention for the J. Mitchell Graham Award, which was the presentation that Chairman Bowers and Collaboration Manager Jessica Varney presented to try to combat the prevalence of Veteran's Suicide.

Runway and Cross Field Project

Mr. Roper stated that Director Salinas is here tonight 1:01

Council asked Mr. Roper questions that included, but was not limited to:

- Litter Control Officers
- Tax Bill Notice (*public forum comment from citizen*)
- Live Stream Videos on YouTube
- Health Insurance Update

COMMITTEE REPORT:

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Chris Bowers called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 9:00 P.M., immediately following the Council Work Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

PROCUREMENT PROCESS – Log No. 152

- Mr. Roper reviewed the Memorandum with Council regarding the Procurement Process. He stated this is specifically relevant to the application of the County Procurement Ordinance (Ordinance 256) as related to the selection of the EMS Medical Control Officer. He went into discussion on what the EMS Medical Control Officer does. Mr. Roper went into more discussion, regarding the question of selection of the current Medical Control and the history of the timeline over the past three years.
- Councilman Alex Saitta went into discussion on Dr. Dillard's timeline, stating he spoke with Dr. Dillard about this situation.
- After some other discussion, Council moved forward on the next item.

❖ **No Action Taken by the Committee.**

COUNCIL ACTION BY LOG NO. 152 – No Action Taken by the Committee.

PROCESS FOR ABANDONED ROADWAY – Log No. 202

- Mr. Roper stated that we have an issue on abandoned roadways that comes up quite frequently. He stated that there is an abandoned section of roadway on Waterstone Drive that are not asphalted but are deeded ROWs. He stated it is owned by surrounding property owners/road was never constructed. He stated he would like for the County Attorney to research if there are other counties out there that have this problem and what process do they

take on situations like this. Mr. Roper went into discussion on a spreadsheet that Renee Gray, Office Manager at Roads and Bridges, keeps up with for all county roads. He stated he would like for the County Attorney to research the legal process on what the county roads are in Pickens County.

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

- Waterstone Drive & surrounding neighborhoods

❖ **No Action Taken by the Committee.**

COUNCIL ACTION BY LOG NO. 202 – No Action Taken by the Committee.

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 9:19 p.m.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Chris Bowers announced the following:

- The Committee of the Whole meeting will take place next Monday, August 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Facility.
- Non-Essential County Offices will be closed on Monday, September 5, in Observance of the Labor Day Holiday.
- The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.
- Boards and Commissions: An informational table is set up in the Lobby this evening with more information about current vacancies and upcoming openings on Pickens County Board and Commissions. If you are interested in serving on a board, please stop by the table or please see the Clerk to Council, Meagan Nations, for more information.

Chairman Bowers called for other council correspondence. Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Bowers announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Chris Bowers opened the floor for motion period and new business.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst made a motion to add a discussion on healthcare to the agenda this evening. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Bowers closed the floor.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES FOR THE PICKENS COUNTY LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACADEMY FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS (LEAPS)

Mr. Roper gave an overview of the Leadership Enhancement Academy for Public Servants. He recognized the seven Pickens County employees who started the program, who are: Jamie Reynolds, Jessica Varney, Jamie Burns, Katie Corbin, Trad Julian, Tyler Merck and Austin Dunn.

Mr. Roper recognized the 2022 LEAPS Graduates and thanked them for all they do for Pickens County:

- Kendyl Black
- Tommy Blankenship
- Jeremy Crum
- Mike Dunaway
- Daniel Farmer
- Samantha Greer
- Angela Hayes
- Brenda Horne
- Amanda Howard
- Victoria Knight
- Jordan Lee
- Brandon Looper
- Tim Owen
- Lauren Pilgrim
- Teann Pilgrim
- Austin Richey
- Jimmy Scruggs
- Bobby Woods
- Shannon Ellenburg
- Aubrey Kelly

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2022-21 RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2022 AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2022-21:

- Motion was made by Councilman Ensley Feemster, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0), to approve Resolution 2022-21.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION 2022-22 AUTHORIZING THE SUBSTITUTION OF ONE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) ITEM FROM A FUTURE FISCAL YEAR TO THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR IN EXCHANGE FOR THE DELAY OF ANOTHER CIP ITEM TO A FUTURE FISCAL YEAR DUE TO CHANGING NEEDS IN THE COUNTY ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to consider Resolution 2022-22:

- Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.
 - Mr. Roper stated this is for the lowboy trailer for the Roads and Bridges Department. The Roads and Bridges Director suggested that the dump truck that was scheduled to be replaced is actually doing well and doesn't need to be replaced. He is asking if they can get the Lowboy Trailer this year, and the dump truck in two years.
- Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0), to approve Resolution 2022-22.

FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE THAT PROVIDES FOR STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR DEVOLVING SURPLUS COUNTY REAL PROPERTY RELATED TO THE MORE ACCURATE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to constitute first reading in title only of this Ordinance.

- Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson and seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion:
 - Mr. Roper stated this is situations where old subdivision plats will have stubs of county roads or a county road that has been accepted into the system will be in a slightly different location than where it showed on the plat. He stated we are looking to come up with a system where Council authorizes himself to take care of those little property matters without cluttering future agendas.
- After more discussion, Council approved the motion unanimously (6-0).

MOTION TO RECALL FROM COMMITTEE FOR SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS AND LIMITATIONS ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 11 SCENIC BYWAY AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Bowers asked for a motion to recall this from Committee for second reading of this ordinance.

- Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson and seconded by Chairman Chris Bowers. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he feels he is not ready to come out of Committee for second reading until more discussion takes place.
 - Chairman Bowers stated he would like for Council to discuss this Ordinance and discussed the moratorium expiration.
 - Vice Chairman Costner stated there is a lot that we need to discuss.
 - Councilman Saitta gave his feedback to Council and a brief history on why he suggested this moratorium a couple of months ago.
 - Attorney Les Hendricks stated the moratorium expires September 1st.
- Councilman Alex Saitta made a substitute motion to send this Ordinance back to Committee for further discussion and to extend the moratorium by 90 days. Councilman Ensley Feemster seconded the motion. Chairman Bowers asked if there was any discussion.
 - Vice Chairman Roy Costner amended the motion, stating he would like to include to extend the moratorium by 90 days OR until third reading of the ordinance, whichever comes first. Motion was seconded by Councilman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Seeing no other discussion, the motion carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSENT AGENDA:

- County Handbook Policy – *Committee of the Whole*
- Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0).

DISCUSSION ON HEALTH CARE COVERAGE *(as added during motion period and new business)*

Chairman Chris Bowers stated he believes this discussion is relating to the Self Insurance and where the County stands on researching that information.

Councilman Whitehurst went into discussion on how he has been on this topic for six years now and he explained details on past meetings with Brokers and different options on exploring self-insured health insurance options. He stated his concern is if we do not like the proposal in September that staff will be presenting, then we are running out of time and we will still be in the same boat that we are now. After much discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated he would like to see the language of the procurement ordinance.

Attorney Les Hendricks stated that the procurement code allows a process for purchasing things that Council wants to be purchased and went into explanation on how the process works.

After more discussion, Chairman Bowers asked the Clerk to pull the minutes for any discussion about going self-insured for health insurance over the past several years and to look for specific direction.

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

- Cost Plus System vs. Self-Funded
- Minutes where Council voted to explore Self-Funded Health Insurance
- RFQ Process – Procurement Ordinance

After more discussion, Councilman Whitehurst stated he does not wish to take action this evening and he is looking forward to the information that will be presented to Council in September.

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.

Legal – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Legal Advice on County Road System

Economic Development – Section 30-4-70 (a) (5)

- Project Big Dog

- Motion was made by Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five-minute recess.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

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

Legal – Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

- Legal Advice on County Road System – **No Action Taken**

Economic Development – Section 30-4-70 (a) (5)

- **Project Big Dog - Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to allocate up to \$2.1 million dollars with the direction to Administrator for accusation of property for project big dog, with \$200,000 to be refunded. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried (5-1), with Councilman Alex Saitta opposed.**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Chris Bowers, Chairman of County Council