

**Pickens County Council**  
**Work Session Report**  
**Saturday, January 14, 2023**  
9:00 A.M.  
Main Conference Room  
222 McDaniel Avenue  
Pickens, SC 29671

Pickens County Council met to hold a work session and discuss the council goals and objectives for the next fiscal year. Chairman Chris Bowers presided with all members in attendance. Chairman Chris Bowers led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

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

**Summary of Work Session for Council Goals and Objectives:**

The discussion of budgetary items included, but not limited to the following:

- Review of 2021 Council Goals
  1. Provide Efficient Essential Services
  2. Protect and Enhance our Unique Nature
  3. Promote a Culture of Public Service
  4. Deliver Prompt and Effective Emergency Response
  5. Strengthen our Resilient Local Economy

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

- Priorities
  - Litter
  - Development Planning
  - Emergency Services
  - Solid Waste
  - Employee Recruitment
  - Public Transportation
  - Affordable Housing
  - Codes pertaining to property
  - Enforcement
  - Being proactive
  - Collaboration with municipalities and other government bodies
  - EMS Staffing/stations (Easley, Central)
  - Law Enforcement Relationship/Communications

- Law Enforcement Training Budget
- All Elected Officials communication with Council
- Roads and Bridges Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Professional Grant Writer
  
- Emergency Services
  - Unified 911
  - Staffing
  - Recruitment
  - Communication/Radio System
  - New Station(s)
  - Emergency Services planned within Development Planning
  - Efficiency in Resources
  
- Infrastructure
  - Momentum on fixing roads
  - Highway 183
  - Development Planning
  - Being proactive with SCDOT
  - ACOG + GPATS for funding
  - Broadband
  - Sewer/Water
  - Public Transportation
  
- Planning (Codes)
  - Development of vacant land
  - Lot sizes
  - Setbacks
  - Abandoned Homes/Vehicles (existing properties)
  - Rewrite litter code
  - Shanty towns
  - Proactivity/Enforcement
  
- Planning (DSO)
  - Lot sizes
  - Setbacks
  - Impact/traffic study
  - Annexation
  - Communication with municipalities
  - Regional zoning
  - Impact fees
  - Emergency services as it relates to development
  - Workforce housing initiatives/affordable
  - Staffing
  - Environmental Impact
  - Moratorium under Housing Development
  - Growth
  
- Recruitment/Retention/People
  - Initiative to self-funded health insurance
  - Engagement
  - Marketing for right people
  - Competitive wage

- Education opportunities/training
- Technology
- Review positions
- Culture of public service
  
- Environmental Protection/Litter
  - Hire litter crews
  - Beautification Committee (Expansion, Rebrand, Mission, etc.)
  - Watch dog
  - Evacuation Programs
  - Education Outreach
  - Communication with SCDOT
  - Litter Ordinance
  - Litter Cops
  - Evaluate Staffing
  
- Solid Waste
  - Keep momentum
  - Long term planning
  - Capital plan
  - Looking for opportunities to pivot based on economic recycling trends (budget)
  - Community communication/outreach
  
- Economic Development
  - Industrial Park – 1 spot open
  - Land
  - Workforce Development
  - Housing
  - Transportation
  - Small business strengthening
  - Tourism

**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.

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Personnel Matter involving the County Administrator Position
  
- Motion was made by Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purpose.

**ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

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

Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)

- Personnel Matter involving the County Administrator Position – **Chairman Chris Bowers made a motion to direct the Attorney to work on a draft Contract for the Administrator for Council. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Roy Costner and carried unanimously (6-0).**

**ADJOURN:**

Vice Chairman Roy Costner moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 1:41 p.m.