

**Pickens City Council Work Session, City of Pickens
July 18, 2022
6:00 P.M**

The Mayor and City Council met for the purpose of a work session with the Committee of the Whole. This meeting was in the Council Chambers at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. Agendas presenting the date and time of this meeting were posted and sent to media on July 13, 2022.

Council Members in attendance:

Mayor Fletcher Perry
Council Member Donnie McKinney
Council Member Lois Porter
Council Member Jimmy Davis
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Council Member Isaiah Scipio

Staff:

Interim Administrator, Dennis Harmon
Chief of Police, Randal Beach
Fire Chief, Chris Elrod
Brandon Enoch, Recreation Director
Bryon Patterson, Streets and Sanitation
Zack Roper, Waste Water Treatment Plant
Harley Deal, Water Treatment
City Clerk, Donna F. Owen

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Perry called the work session to order and noted all Council were in attendance. Mayor Perry called upon Chief Randal Beach for the Invocation and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Mayor Perry opened the floor for any comments from the citizens. Hearing none, the floor was closed.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES:

Motion was made be Council Member Donnie McKinney, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis and unanimously passed to approve the stated minutes as presented.

- June 6, 2022
- June 20, 2022
- June 27, 2022
- July 11, 2022

MEET WITH DEPARTMENT MANAGERS:

Mayor Perry opened the floor for Department Heads to speak informally and communicate to Council as it relates to their individual departments.

- 1) Fire Chief Chris Elrod spoke to Council about a project with a side by side UTV that new would normally cost approximately 30K and the department should complete this project for about 5K. this is used on the Doodle trail and other City events. Chief Elrod informed Council about the part-time staff plans and stated the current budget will not sustain without adjustment due no funding within part-time and over-time items. Council was informed staff is looking for better collection rates as it pertains to insurance companies. Chief Elrod concluded by stating a wish list of more personnel, a larger station, and a fire truck.
- 2) Police Chief, Randal Beach thanked the Fire Department for the joint collaborations between police and fire and stated positive results for community and children. Chief Beach pointed out that the police department has main goals of keeping moral high. Continuing to train and work on professional leadership is a priority. Continuing education in traditional learning and leadership platforms are avenues to meet these goals. Chief Beach did state the need to begin adding to personnel over the next few years. The City is beginning to see increases in housing, businesses and events. It is the goal of the department to be able to keep up with the demands and keep moral high. In addition to personnel, are challenges in fleet management. Council was informed about ideas for future vehicles as well as making the SRO vehicles school oriented (example, high school would have a Blue Flame) Council was also informed about the Badge Program. Officers are obtaining better quality badges, and officers have newer quality back-up firearms. Chief Beach also discussed that police officers would be involved in active shooter training, and this type of training is a priority.
- 3) Recreation Director, Brandon Enoch. Mr. Enoch thanked Council for this avenue to communicate needs as well as things that have been resolved. Mr. Enoch stated the Parks and Recreation is doing well and operating efficiently with several Fall sports in full operation. Mr. Enoch believes that when he finishes filling the position in maintenance, he will be able to manage the grounds and fields more efficiently. The priority for Parks and Recreation is to refocus on J.C. Park. Mr. Enoch reiterated that in the past, staff and Council began to identify issues with the park as it relates to safety and vandalism. The staff has been collaborating with a consultant on the areas of playground equipment, equipment repair, and replacement. Council requested that a list and cost analysis be presented to the administrator to re-start this process. Council concluded this project will be a bid process.
- 4) Wastewater Treatment Facility, Zack Roper. Mr. Roper gave out a report for the plant that showed a performance matrix and maintenance items. Mr. Roper stated the plant is running well. Council also received a report from the public works and discussed the number of leaks that have been repaired and leaks that are still under construction.
- 5) Water Treatment Facility, Harley Deal. Mr. Deal informed Council there are big picture items that will need attention as it relates to an aging infrastructure. Mr. Deal stated, there needs to be more communication, and a group of professionals in the Water industry to comprehend the totality. In addition, personnel demands continue to be problematic.
- 6) Bryon Patterson, Streets and Sanitation. Mr. Patterson stated he would concur with most other Department Head in the fact that he needs more personnel; however, he has issues with people leaving or not seeking employment due to compensation. Mr. Patterson stated his vehicles were all in decent shape. Council requested information regarding the recycling program. Mr. Patterson reminded Council that the County has suspended the program and to date, there is no place to haul recycled materials.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Perry called for further business of the Council.

- Administrator Harmon informed Council that it was necessary to move forward with selecting Administrator candidates for interviews. Mr. Harmon reiterated the importance of this process to move forward.
- Administrator Harmon informed Council the Artwork is continuing at Bruce Field.
- Administrator Harmon informed Council that he has spoken with Roy Costner regarding the concerns about the paint on Main Street.
- Chief Beach stated the police department were assisting with helping the Assistant Municipal Judge in her endeavors to move court to the public works building. Chief Beach stated this will be a better fit for the court atmosphere.
- Council Member Patrick Lark stated he had received an ordinance that would need to be addressed at the next meeting. This ordinance will pertain to the regional joint water project.
- Council Member Donnie McKinney disseminated information as it relates to repairs needed at the Senior Center. The City owns this building and there are some structural repairs in the amount of approximately \$5,000.00. Mr. Harmon will look at the budget for the Center.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

- Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce Director, Bryan Owens informed Council about the dates and times for the kickoff of the ESPN televised Senior League Baseball World Series. Easley will host players and parents from all over the world. Pickens would like to host an evening when part of the teams can come over to the Doodle Park and enjoy all that Pickens has to offer. Bryan stated the League is requesting assistance for transportation expenses in the amount of \$425.00. Council directed Mr. Harmon to assist.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business from the work session. Council Member Patrick Lark moved to adjourn, motion was seconded by Council Member Donnie McKinney and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted



Donna Owen, City Clerk

Approved



Mayor Fletcher Perry