

**Regular called City of Pickens Council Meeting
October 3, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met in a Regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. Agendas were posted and sent to media on September 28, 2022.

Council Members in attendance:

Mayor Fletcher Perry
Council Member Jimmy Davis
Council Member Patrick Lark
Council Member Donnie McKinney
Council Member Robert Nealy
Council Member Lois Porter
Council Member Isaiah Scipio

Council Members Absent:

None

Staff:

Charlene Carter, Administrator
Dennis Harmon, Interim Administrator
Randal Beach, Chief of Police
Chris Elrod, Fire Chief

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Perry called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance, Mayor Perry further gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

Mayor Perry, Council and Staff showed their appreciation for Mr. Paul Alexander for his 20 years of service for the City of Pickens.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Mayor Perry opened the floor for citizens with business/comments to the Council.

- 1) Shoaly Young, Chairperson of the Baha' faith in Pickens County presented artwork to the council to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passing of Abdu l-Baha' the son of the founder of the Baha' faith. Ms. Young invited all to watch a brief history about Abdu l Baha' which is a video entitled Exemplar.
- 2) Ray Wilson- presented council with a list of streets that need signage. Mr. Wilson stated he had requested a sign approximately 8 months ago.
- 3) Jeff Derrick – Mr. Derrick spoke about the stability of the water tower. Mr. Derrick agreed there needs to be stabilization, and maintenance but believes the tower can be stabilized and should not be removed.
- 4) Ed Lease- Mr. Lease reminded Council that the brush on Calla Lilly Court has not been removed. Staff did inform Mr. Lease that while staff is catching up, they are back to a regular route schedule.
- 5) Barry Crawford- Mr. Crawford spoke about the water tower. Mr. Crawford stated the tower has great history and has been up since 1921 and the first water system came into Pickens in 1922.

Mr. Crawford encouraged Council to seek another opinion as it relates to the stability of the tower and to look at alternative options such as private ownership.

- 6) Jimmy Patten- Mr. Patten stated that Pickens had a good Jeep Explosion with over 500 jeeps and approximately 1400 people in town for the event. Mr. Patten stated he would be asking council to support the event next year and would be seeking approximately \$8,500.00. On another subject, Mr. Patten encouraged Council to put effort into a vision and 5–10-year plan. Mr. Patten stated Pickens has 22 buildings that are vacant on Main Street, and Council needs a serious plan to revitalize the downtown.
- 7) Nathan Campbell – Mr. Campbell owns Finders/Keepers on Main Street. He stated he enjoyed events that were on Main Street because it helps promote his business and brings customers into his store. Mr. Campbell said he would like to see the Halloween trickier-treaters back on Main Street. (Bryan Owens, explained to Mr. Campbell that this year the Fall Festival will be at the Recreation Department, but there would be a concert at the Amphitheater. Mr. Owens also indicated many businesses were not interested in staying open for Halloween.
- 8) Davey Hiott – Representative Hiott came before Council to thank them for their service to the citizens. Mr. Hiott thanked Jimmy Patten for the successful Jeep Explosion. In addition, Representative Hiott thanked Council for their decision to hire Chief Beach, stating he sees Chief Beach deal with many of the city’s more problematic situations and he wanted to state the true leadership that Chief Beach exhibits within the community daily.
- 9) Kevin Greer – Mr. Greer stated Chief Beach had asked him about the cost of a repair at the wall in front of McDonalds. Mr. Greer stated that proposal will be approximately \$500.00. On another subject Mr. Greer stated he had clients that visited Pickens and the water tower is a tourist attraction for many people who visit. In addition, Mr. Greer stated the homelessness in the city appears to be getting worse.
- 10) Cheryl Smith – Ms. Smith stated the trash situation for the commercial store seems to be getting better, however, when the city mows in the area they mow over a lot of paper, and it would be best to pick it up prior to mowing. Regarding the water tower, Ms. Smith stated she would be most concerned about the health of our water.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES September 12, 2022:

Motion was made by Council Member Donnie McKinney, seconded by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, and unanimously approved as presented.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 5-3-150(3) OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, TO ANNEX PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA – second and final reading - Ordinance No. 2022-09 (Waffle House Site)

Motion was made by Council Member Donnie McKinney, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter, and unanimously approved that this constitutes a second and final reading of Ordinance No. 2022-09.

CITY BUSINESS: Action Requested

1. **Installation of stop signs at two locations-**
 - a. *Change existing yield sign at Blacksnake Rd and John Street intersection to a stop sign.*
 - b. *Install 2 additional stop signs on Jefferson Street and Lewis Street intersection to make a 4-way stop.*

Administrator Carter referred to Chief Beach, as he has been checking on these traffic areas. Chief Beach informed Council he thought this would be a good idea to install the stop sign to slow the speed as it relates to item (a) Blacksnake Road and John Street. This has been studied for a period of time and needs to happen.

Chief Beach stated the area as it relates to item (b) Jefferson and Lewis Streets – Jefferson is used as a cut through from Highway 8 to Highway 178. The visibility is poor, and this area has a lot of the elementary school traffic coming in off 178. Chief Beach stated there is also construction beginning in this area. A 4-way stop sign will help control a slowing process where needed. Chief Beach has studied this area and also communicating with residents, and school officials.

Chief Beach also said his department will take all the safety precautions as customary with new signage.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Patrick Lark to move forward as requested with the installation of the signage as it relates to both items. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis and unanimously passed.

2. Installation of Flagpole on side of Doodle Trail facing East Cedar Rock location with some landscape additions to enhance before Veterans Day Friday, November 11.

Administrator Carter informed Council she has been in discussions with several people as it relates to the installation of the flagpole at the Doodle Park. Ms. Carter stated the flag will be visible from all areas of the park without interfering with current or future planning. Ms. Carter stated she would like this complete with some landscaping and be installed by Veterans Day.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Patrick Lark, seconded by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, and unanimously passed to approve the installation of the flagpole as presented.

CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 Personnel Matters/Contractual Matters:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Patrick Lark, seconded by Council Member Donnie McKinney, and unanimously approved to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION:

ACTION AS IT RELATES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Donnie McKinney, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter and unanimously approved to reconvene back into public session.

The discussion in Executive session will be discussed and acted upon in the following section Business to be considered by City Council items 1-7.

BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CITY COUNCIL: Action requested

(Administrator Carter)

1. Use of sale proceeds to rehabilitate and complete Fire Department Medical Utility 41 Gator.

>>Council Member Patrick Lark moved to use the proceeds from a sale to update a medical utility gator. Mr. Lark also thanked Chief Elrod for the resourcefulness in this project. Motion was seconded by Council Member Donnie McKinney and unanimously approved.

2. Complete RFP to City Auditors for current year and Contract CPA:

>>Council Member Patrick Lark moved for Administrator Carter to complete the RFP for Auditors and contract with CPA. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lois Porter and unanimously passed.

3. Financial Budget adjustments:

- a. Adjust Fire Department budget line items to the following amounts: overtime \$7,000.00, fuel \$10,000.00
- b. Adjust part-time recreation salaries \$10,000.00

>>Council Member Patrick Lark made the motion for Administrator Carter to move forward with adjusting budgetary items as necessary and to come back with a complete budget amendment. Motion was seconded by Council Member Isaiah Scipio and unanimously passed.

4. Complete RFP for project contractor for urgent issues:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Jimmy Davis, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter and unanimously approved for Administrator Carter to complete RFP for project contractor as recommended.

5. Complete mitigation street work on 114 South Church Street:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, seconded by Council Member Donnie McKinney, and unanimously passed to complete mitigation on the city side/right-of- way as Ms. Carter discussed.

6. WP Law fountain and splash pad contract discussion & meeting:

>> Council will not entertain a meeting at this time.

7. Complete RFP for the contract removal of City of Pickens Water Tower:

>>Council Member Patrick Lark moved to table the RFP until staff has successfully obtained and given all the information to the public as it relates to tower. Mr. Lark commented it was hard to make this decision without all the facts being available to Council and the public. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis and unanimously passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

Administrator Carter stated she is working on the following items:

- Storm drains
- Main Street clean-up
- Public Works security and clean-up/getting ready for court
- Obtaining information as it relates to Jayce Park
- Doodle Trail maintenance (post replacement)
- Robinson Lane/Hwy 8 water lines
- Obtaining cost as it relates to trash can replacement
- Meter replacements

Ms. Carter concluded by stating her gratitude to Mr. Harmon as he has worked with her in the transition of her new role as the Administrator, and his knowledge and guidance has been greatly appreciated.

The Mayor and City Council further honored Mr. Harmon with a plaque thanking him for his leadership as the City's Interim Administrator.


COMMENTS:

Lisa Turnick with the Chamber of Commerce gave Council a handout regarding upcoming events.

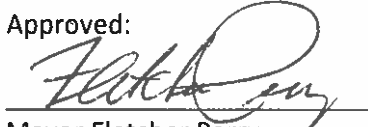
ADJOURN:

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Perry called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Patrick Lark, seconded by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, and unanimously passed. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:


Mayor Fletcher Perry