

City of Pickens Work Session
October 17, 2022
6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in a work session in the Council Chambers at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. Agendas were posted and sent to media on October 12, 2022.

Council Members in attendance:

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

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Robert Nealy

Staff:

Administrator, Charlene Carter
Randal Beach, Chief of Police
Chris Elrod, Fire Chief
Brandon Enoch, Recreation Director
Francisco Mendoza, Public Works

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Perry called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mayor Perry further noted the absence of Council Member Robert Nealy.

Council Member Isaiah Scipio gave the Invocation and Council followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Mayor Perry opened the floor for citizens with comments as it relates to city business.

- 1) Debbie Gravely- informed Council that the Fall Market at the Duddle Trail was a success on October 13th as well as the amphitheater concert on October 14th. Ms. Gravely thanked Council for their continued support as these events are becoming larger.

Department Head Managers Reports:

- 1) Randal Beach, Chief of police began his report with a "Life Saving Award" presented to Fire Chief, Chris Elrod for his lifesaving actions in an incident that happened in early October. Chief Beach also stated that due to superior EMS and police work that Pickens has not had a homicide or a fatality car accident in two (2) years.
Chief Beach went on to highlight training, policy updates, volunteers, community outreach, events and implementing emergency plans as events become larger. In addition, Chief Beach spoke about the need to fix dispatching problems.
(Exhibit one is a full attachment of the Police report that will be kept with these minutes in the Clerk's office.)
- 2) Officer Jonathan Morris gave a report on the police presence occurring at all City parks and recreational games. Officer Morris covered maintenance, safety, signage, loitering issues relating

to public safety, and future plans with wooded trails and grants. Officer Morris stated this is a collaborative effort on behalf of Police, Public Works, and Recreation. Also noted was the police department is utilizing the high school for printing and graphics. *(Exhibit two is a full attachment of the Park/Police report that will be kept with these minutes in the Clerk's office.)*

- 3) Fire Chief, Chris Elrod gave Council an account of the monthly incident reporting from the fire department. Chief Elrod spoke about the issues of back orders on truck tires and turn out gear. Chief Elrod also stated much work is being done for emergency response in different scenarios. It is imperative that those plans are put into place especially with attracting larger crowds and closing streets. In addition, Chief Elrod reminded Council of the age of the department trucks and believes the department would benefit by having a new fire truck. Chief Elrod gave Council a handout of the history of the Pickens Fire Department.

(Exhibit three is a full attachment of the Fire Department report that will be kept with these minutes in the Clerk's office.)

- 4) Brandon Enoch, Recreation Director. Director Enoch began his presentation by thanking Public Works, and the Police Department. Mr. Enoch stated that the maintenance work and the police presence has been phenomenal. Mr. Enoch reiterated his report from July of this year regarding the refocus of moving forward with the phases of addressing Jaycee Park renovations. Mr. Enoch stated many things from the phase I list is complete and other play areas are not in use until further renovations. Council and staff were given several estimates, and upon approval a formal bid process can take place. Mr. Enoch also talked about committees and help with the process of obtaining grants that are available. Council Member Jimmy Davis made the comment that he thought the playground should not be open until the repairs are made. *(Exhibit four is a full attachment of the Parks and Recreation report that will be kept with these minutes in the Clerk's office.)*

Administrator Carter: Ms. Carter brought several items/updates to the attention of Council.

- Public Works- to maintain and keep up with workloads, there have been (2) part-time employees hired. Mapping for water valves and a CDL driver will be utilized in these positions.
- Project at Church Street is complete. Bruce Field holes have been repaired. All-Good project completing, and staff is looking into (6) complaints regarding property owners.
- There will be some water plant evaluations. Also, water taps that have been on backorder should be in within the next 2 weeks. Continuing to remove meters and begin demolition of Jewel Street.
- Working with Chief Elrod to determine review of non-working hydrants.
- There has been a recent request to place a cell tower at Public Works- more information will be forthcoming.
- Public works needs to be deep cleaned, items removed or sold. Also, security, fencing and gates need to be complete. In addition, the parking lot needs to be sealed and striped.
- Administration-Ms. Carter stated that in her research, Council has designated some of the ARPA funds for sanitation roll-carts. Council needs to be thinking about more uses for this fund. Also, there will be approximately (12) bank accounts to keep money separate and in designated funds. The RFP is out for the audit. There are also funds for stormwater projects that Council needs to be thinking about.
- Rodney Crenshaw is collaborating with staff as it relates to missing signage.
- Clean up will continue as it pertains to tree trimming, mulching and pressure washing. Staff is preparing for Veterans day to honor our Veterans. And Christmas decorations are being planned.
- Court- Ms. Carter stated that she has been communicating with our City Attorney regarding the appointment of the next City Judge.

In Closing, Ms. Carter thanked the Council, Staff, and Citizens for welcoming her and she is excited about being the Administrator for Pickens.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:


Mayor Perry asked if any Council Members had other business.

- Council Member Donnie McKinney stated he would like to see the City Hall parking lot sealed and restriped.
- Council Member Jimmy Davis thanked staff and stated appreciation for these department head reports and meetings. All members of Council concurred.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Perry adjourned the work session at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Mayor Fletcher Perry