

Special called City of Pickens Council Meeting
November 28, 2022
6:00 p.m.

The Mayor and City Council met in Special Session in the Council Chambers at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. Agendas were posted and sent to media on November 22, 2022.

Council Members in attendance:

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

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Patrick Lark

Staff:

Charlene Carter, City Administrator
Randal Beach, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Perry called the special called meeting to order. Council Member Isaiah Scipio gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Mayor Perry advised this meeting was being held to hear from citizens as it relates to the dismissal of the Recreation Director, Brandon Enoch. Mayor Perry stated to the public that each person desiring to speak would be limited to (5) minutes so that each person who is in support of Mr. Enoch is allowed the time. Each speaker was expected to show professionalism during their time speaking. Mayor Perry also stated that it was his understanding that there was positive dialogue today between Ms. Carter and Mr. Enoch.

Chief Randal Beach had a list of those citizens that signed up to speak. Citizens were called to the podium as follows:

Will Smith, Brady Smith, Dewayne Bennet, Donna Mansell, Tammy Anthony, John Michel Smith, Corey Roper, Bobby Rice, Michael Keith, Mathew Wakefield, Pat Mulkey, Maggie Chambers, Zack Haney, Jessica Merrill, Amanda Ellenburg, Barbara Robinson, Kenya Hunter, Joel Rice, Felicia Dowdal, Brooke Freeman, Gary Hinton, Anna Gainey, Jeff Harrelson.

(The minutes are a synopsis of the meeting, and a full viewing and recording of the meeting is available on the City of Pickens Webpage and Facebook).

The above citizens were parents, coaches, teachers, lifelong supporters of Pickens Recreation, business owners, and volunteers for the Recreation Department. Everyone expressed their personal/professional relationship to the Pickens Recreation Department as well as their relationship with Brandon Enoch. Parents and coaches were complimentary of their experiences with Mr. Enoch and much credit was

given to his ability to motivate and inspire the children. Many expressed that hiring Mr. Enoch had been a wonderful opportunity for innovative ideas and greater vision for the future. Citizens informed Council it would be their desire to see the reinstatement of Mr. Enoch as the Director of Recreation. Citizens also expressed confusion over why Mr. Enoch was terminated from his position. Many Citizens requested to know why, and further informed Council they would vote strongly against Council in future elections if the termination was not overturned. Citizens expressed concern and the legality regarding why and how Mr. Enoch was terminated. One of the Recreation Volunteers voiced her opinion that she did disagree with the way the Recreation Department was managing the fee for children to participate and not providing each team with jerseys unless the team's coach recruited a sponsor, she thinks it's best for all the children to receive a jersey regardless of sponsorship.

In conclusion of the one hour and twenty-eight-minute comment period, citizens strongly requested the reinstatement of Brandon Enoch as the Recreation Director.

Council Member Isaiah Scipio requested to make comments as it relates to the issue of this termination. Mr. Scipio informed the citizens of the application process that Mr. Enoch went through when he was hired. Mr. Scipio explained that he served on the Parks and Recreation Committee during the hiring/interview process. Mr. Scipio read a letter from the Appalachian Council of Governments that stated Brandon was the best applicant for this position. Mr. Scipio said the reason the (ACOG) wrote the letter was due to the hiring practices being called into question. Emotionally, Mr. Scipio stated the hiring practices have never been called into question and he further stated he was tired of these types of meetings and issues, and further stated he hopes the youth will take his place. In conclusion, he requested the Council make the right decision with this issue.

Brandon Enoch approached Council to speak- Mr. Enoch stated he was truly humbled by the outpouring of support from the citizens that spoke on his behalf. Mr. Enoch expressed his thanks for the opportunity to serve; however, the fact that he had only been in the recreation position for a year was not enough time to show his true abilities. Mr. Enoch further informed Council and the citizens that this has not been an easy year for him as he had suffered the loss of his Grandfather and his Mother. Mr. Enoch stated his termination was stated for (3) reasons: (1) he thought communication in which he may have appeared disengaged and arrogant; (2)- the issues with cheerleading uniforms that he thought had resolution; (3) that he had full knowledge of a convicted felon volunteering at the Recreation Department. Mr. Enoch stated he wanted to bring an end to the speculation and false accusations that were permitted on social media. Mr. Enoch stated he does not believe that Ms. Carter's decision for termination was from a place hatred or from a rash decision. While he would like to be reinstated, he feels it necessary to clear the misconceptions.

Mr. Enoch also stated that State Law provides for him to decide that in the event of an executive session regarding his employment that he could request the citizens remain for the session, and he was exercising that right.

Mayor Perry stated to the public this meeting was for the Council to listen. Council is not supposed to engage in conversation, and this is a personnel issue. Mayor Perry stated the public has been heard and asked if any other council members wanted to speak. Hearing none, Mayor Perry addressed Mr. Enoch and informed him that he admired and commended him. Mayor Perry informed Mr. Enoch that he realized he had overcome many challenges in this past year. Mayor Perry further read a message from Mr. Randy Adams – and quoted "Save Brandon's job, he is doing an awesome job for the kids." Mayor Perry stated he did not have the authority to reinstated Brandon Enoch as the Director of Recreation, but the Administrator did have the authority. Mayor Perry asked Ms. Carter if she would reinstate Brandon Enoch as the Pickens Recreation Director – after some hesitation Mayor Perry

repeated the question. Administrator Carter stated no, she would not. Mayor Perry stated there was a quorum of council and that Mr. Enoch deserved to know where Council stands on this issue.

>>Mayor Perry asked for a motion to reinstated Mr. Enoch. Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio to reinstate Brandon Enoch as the Recreation Director. Mayor Perry seconded the motion and for clarification/research asked Ms. Carter if he as the Mayor had the authority to second this motion. She stated yes. Mayor Perry stated there was a motion on the floor and a second to reinstate Mr. Enoch, Mayor Perry asked those in favor to stand up. Mayor Perry and Council Member Isaiah Scipio stood in favor. Council Member Jimmy Davis, Council Member Lois Porter, Council Member Donnie McKinney, Council Member Robert Nealy did not stand in favor (Note the absence of Council Member Patrick Lark) therefore Mayor Perry announced the motion failed and Mr. Enoch's termination stands. Mayor Perry called any other business – Hearing none, Mayor Perry declared the meeting of November 28th, 2022. Adjourned.

(A motion to convene in Executive Session never occurred)

EXECUTIVE SESSION - CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

CODE OF LAWS, SECTION 30-4-70 PERSONNEL MATTERS

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION: (A motion to convene in Executive Session never occurred)

ACTION AS IT RELATES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: (A motion to convene in Executive Session never occurred)

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Perry declared the meeting of November 28th, 2022, adjourned. Council meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Mayor Fletcher Perry