City of Pickens, South Carolina
Regular Called Meeting
February 12, 2024

The Mayor and City Council met in a regular called meeting in Council Chambers at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. Agendas were posted and sent to media on February 9, 2024.

Council Members in attendance:
Mayor, Isaiah Scipio
Council Member & Mayor Pro-Tem, Danny Adams
Council Member, Cameron Rivers
Council Member, Floyd Rogers
Council Member Robert Nealy
Council Member, Allie Winter

Staff:
Administrator, Tim O'Briant
Police Chief, Randal Beach
Finance Director, Many Hess
Recreation Director, Jonathan Morris
Trey Adams, CWS Project Manager

(The minutes are a synopsis of the meeting, and they are not a verbatim discussion. a full viewing and recording of the meeting is available on the City of Pickens Webpage and Facebook. Also, the full agenda packet with all departmental reports are available in the City Clerk's office).

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Scipio called the meeting of 02/12/2024 to order and welcomed those in attendance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Scipio called upon Terry Brown, from Griffen Ebenezer Church to lead the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

1) Pat Mulky-Informed Council that certain festivals and entertainment was coming into to Pickens that may not be desirable. Pat made mention of a Hemp festival and an indoor fighting contest. Pat encouraged Council to study this issue and quoted state laws.
2) Alex Saitta – Mr. Saitta is a County Council Member representing the Pickens District. He came before Council to update them regarding various items the County is discussing. Mr. Saitta discussed the Senior Center, 911 Call Center, EMS stations, the Hagood

Maulding House, Jayce Park, Hagood Mill, and the Mural at the museum. Mr. Saitta stated these are many items the County is funding, and he wanted to be a better communicator as the district representative.

3) Issac Cantrell - stated Scout Troop 51 will be sponsoring a canned food and non-perishable food drive on Saturday March 9th, all food will go to the Gleaning House.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of January 8, 2024

Work Session, Committee of the Whole, January 22,2024

>>Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter, seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of January 8 and January 22, 2024.

FINANCE DIRECTOR PRESENTATION, REGARDING BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Finance Director, Mandy Hess went over the budget amendment that was previously given to members of Council in the agenda packet. In addition, Ms. Hess handed out more specific numbers as they relate to utility. Council was provided with ARPA, PRT grant, and Bond proceed reviews. Also, Ms. Hess went over the amended detail of budget additional expense request.

>During discussion Council Member Robert Nealy requested a complete print out of each amendment. Council Member Floyd Rogers also requested the heading of the document flow with each page.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Administrator O'Briant called attention to the memorandum within the agenda that covered the following:

- Updates for the progress of the 2022/2023 audits.
- New phone system to be installed in February.
- Use of the SC PRT grant in the amount of $150K.
- Council was updated regarding a part-time records employee in the police department accepting a full-time position within that department.
- The insurance has confirmed the coverage of repairs to the Teen Canteen roof in the amount of $58K.
- CWS has completed an emergency repair of a burst 8-inch water line serving the hospital. This resulted in an unbudgeted amount of $13,254K and will be part of the budget amendment.
- Partnerships are continuing with Pickens County and all municipalities to create a joint regional planning body to share information and discuss growth.
- Bids have been submitted regarding restoration of the train at Doodle Park. Also, for a Design/Build proposal to create a skate park facility.
- Council was made aware as part of the budget amendment, the Administrator is requesting a full-time Downtown Development Director to enhance downtown and assisting with economic development.

- Security cameras will be installed at the Doodle Park to assist in eliminating vandalism. The cameras will be combined with a 24-hr monitoring service to alert police of anyone who is in the park after hours or seen vandalizing.
- The City Attorney is working on a draft ordinance for accommodation tax as it relates to short-term rentals. This will be discussed at the work session on February 26, 2024.

Old Business:

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024 -01 TO AMEND CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 413 R-20 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PICKENS, SC:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Danny Adams, seconded by Council Member Allie Winter. During discussion Ms. Winter asked for clarification that this lot size was being added to the ordinance and was not changing other lot sizes. With that being clarified as correct, Mayor Scipio called for the vote. The vote was unanimous that this constitute as second reading to Ordinance No. 2024-01.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2023-14 TO AMEND SECTION 14-4 GARBAGE CONTAINERS:(tabled 1/8/24)

Mayor Scipio called for the motion to remove this item from the table.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Danny Adams, seconded by Council Member Robert Nealy to remove from the table. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Danny Adams that this constitute a second reading of Ordinance No.2023-14. During discussion, Mr. Rogers stated he would like to amend the Ordinance to state in section (d) "At the discretion of the Administrator" instead of at the discretion of the Public Works Director. The amendment did not receive a second and failed. Mayor Scipio called for a second on the original motion. Council Member Allie Winter gave a second to Council Member's Adams that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 2023-14. Motion passed with a 5-1 vote with Council Member Floyd Rogers voting in opposition.

New business:

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 04 TO AMEND THE FY 2023/2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE: (Continued for further study)

Council Member Allie Winter stated she was not ready to vote on the amendment and would like to table this at this meeting. During discussion, Administrator O'Briant stated it may be better to continue instead of tabling which makes the issue have to come up at the next scheduled meeting.

Ms. Winter stated that continuing this discussion is what she would like to vote on, she stated the retreat would be a good place to get specific information regarding this amendment. Council Member Robert Nealy seconded the motion to have further study. Motion carried with a unanimous vote. This item will be on the agenda for the 02/22/2024 retreat.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-R4 TO AUTHORIZE LEASE AGREEMENT OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY, 602 RED HILL ROAD:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers to approve the lease agreement. Moton was seconded by Council Member Allie Winter.

>>During discussion, Ms. Winter asked if the rent was the same as the last tenant. Mayor Scipio stated the rent was lower in the past, and the rent has been adjusted to a higher level. Mayor Scipio stated the location of this house is on city property and has always been rented to an employee. Council Member Robert Nealy stated he thought the rent should be at fair market, and the council should be cautious about renting to an employee that could be perceived as unfair. Mr. Nealy further stated a member of the police department had rented this property in the past as a safety benefit. Council Member Danny Adams and Council Member Allie Winter thought the property would be better served with a tenant. Ms. Winter further stated the location of this property is right at the gate of the water treatment plant, and probably would only be of interest to a city employee.

>>Mayor Scipio stated if there were no further debate, he would call for the vote. Council Member Allie Winter, Council Member Danny Adams, Mayor Scipio, and Council Member Floyd Rogers voted in favor. Council Member Robert Nealy and Council Member Cameron Rivers opposed. Motion carried with a 4-2 vote.

APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH SERVPRO TO REPAIR WOMEN'S RESTROOMS AT CITY HALL:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter, seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers, and unanimously passed to contract with Servpro to repair city hall women's restroom. This was clarified that payment would be through the City's insurance carriers.

APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Floyd Rogers, seconded by Council Member Allie Winter to appoint Beth Velner to the Board of Architectural Review.

>During discussion, Mr. Rogers stated he would like Council to be more active in the decision making of the boards such as planning and zoning. And be able to ask questions when there may be disagreements or miscommunication.

>Prior to going into executive session, Mr. Floyd made the comment that he had actively campaigned regarding the fact that there should be a larger space to hold regular Council Meetings. Mr. Rogers asked if there was a status on this issue. Mayor Scipio stated he was working on a solution. To please be patient and allow some better communication regarding other city owned buildings.

CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

S.C. Code OF LAW 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss personnel matters:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Danny Adams, seconded by Council Member Cameron Rivers, and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purpose.

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Danny Adams, seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers, and unanimously approved to reconvene into public session.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Mayor Scipio called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Allie Winter, seconded by Council Member Floyd Rogers, and unanimously approved to adjourn. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:

Isaiah Scipio, Mayor