

Regular called City of Pickens Council Meeting and Committee of the Whole
April 24, 2023
6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council met in a Regular called session in the Council Chambers at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. Agendas were posted and sent to media on April 21, 2023. (noted absence of Mayor Perry and Council Member Isaiah Scipio)

Council Members in attendance:

Council Member Jimmy Davis, Mayor Pro-Tem
Council Member Patrick Lark
Council Member Lois Porter
Council Member Robert Nealy

Council Members Absent:

Mayor Fletcher Perry
Council Member Isaiah Scipio

Staff:

Administrator, Charlene Carter
Police Chief, Randal Beach
Fire Chief, Chris Elrod
Recreation Director, Jonathan Morris
CWS, project Manager, Drew Langston

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro-Tem, Jimmy Davis called the meeting to order and further asked Council Member Patrick Lark to lead the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

- 1) Daniel Adams- Mr. Adams stated he was a citizen, and he has heard rumors that the Administrator has been suspended. He would like to know if this is true, and if it is not true, the council should know who started this rumor and have it stopped. Mayor Pro-Tem, Jimmy Davis addressed this issue by stating that she has not been placed on suspension that he was aware of and further stated Members of Council are the only people that can put her on suspension so there is no truth to a suspension.
- 2) Jimmy Patten – Mr. Patten came before Council to inform them of plans for the 2023 Jeep Explosion. The event will be at the Market at the Mill on September 30, 2023. The event is expected to have 2000 plus Jeeps. There will be major sponsors with nice prizes for the participants. There will also be billboards. Mr. Patten stated there would be an honorable recognition. Mr. Patten requested a \$3000.00 donation from the City to be a full sponsor.
- 3) Pat Mulky- Mr. Mulky thanked Council for the continued work at Jaycee Park.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES:

March 6, 2023, Regular Council Meeting -Motion was made by Council Member Patrick Lark to approve the minutes, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter, and unanimously approved.

March 27, 2023, Committee of Whole Meeting – Motion was made by Council Member Lois Porter to approve the minutes, seconded Council Member Patrick Lark, and unanimously approved.

Resolution 2023-R9 Fund allocation for the YMCA Annual Fund Campaign:

Motion was made by Council Member Patrick Lark, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter, and unanimously passed to approve Resolution No. 2023 R9 for a \$500.00 allocation for the YMCA Campaign.

Resolution 2023-R8 Fair Housing Resolution:

Motion was made by Council Member Lois Porter, seconded by Council Member Robert Nealy, and unanimously passed to approve Resolution No. 2023-R8.

Ordinance 2023-04 Rezoning request 247 Ann Street:

Administrator Carter explained that 247 Ann Street went before the Planning Commission in March with only three of the four members present. Two of the members had to recuse themselves and could not vote on the rezoning request. There was not a quorum. Therefore, the request to re-zone is before the Council. Ms. Carter stated the property in question is zoned R12, which only allows single family residential. The request is to be zoned as General Business District and to allow a real estate office. A previous business did operate from this address but was not rezoned. The recommendation from planning staff is to leave the property as R12 Residential.

>> Council Member Lois Porter moved to keep the property Residential. Motion was seconded by Council Member Robert Nealy. Council Member Patrick Lark voted in opposition. Motion carried to keep Ann Street residential.

Mr. Lark stated he thought the homes on Ann Street should be protected, but also thought some businesses are conducive without disrupting the integrity of the residents.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE for (March-April)

(reports are distributed in full and can be found on the City Website and Facebook page)

- a. Administration-Administrator Carter stated she received official notification that the City has been awarded the SKIP award which will provide significant improvements for the City's waterlines. Ms. Carter stated with the bond match this grant will total \$6.2 million.
 - Roll-Carts are being delayed until after the Azalea Festival as all efforts are on this event.
 - Adjustments have been made at Public Works to better serve brush pick up and sanitation services.

- b. Fire -Chief Elrod gave the Council a full Incident report. Chief Elrod updated Council on the ladder truck. The council was informed both light towers from the grant were in service. The focus would be on the upcoming Azalea Festival.
- c. Police -Chief Beach gave the Council a full Incident report. Chief Beach gave recognition to Chief Elrod as it related to a severe accident on Main Street and thanked him for his paramedic skills. Chief Beach pointed out his full report and reminded everyone that police respond to these incidents in extreme weather and temperatures, and he is grateful for their hard work. Council was also informed that the department 2022 year in review is available. The event with Youth Leadership Academy was a success, and the event raised over \$20K. Thanks were extended to Fire and Recreation for their participation.
- d. Recreation - Director Morris gave the Council a full report on Grounds & Maintenance updates, Recreation updates to include all the spring sports that have 250 athletes. Council was informed about Park updates to include Jaycee Playground and funding/location of a skate park. Mr. Morris encouraged Council to tour the grounds, parks, and recreation facilities. Also noted was appreciation to Chief Beach for the successful event at the YLA fundraiser. Summer camp is continuing with applications.
- e. Water & Sewer - Project Manager Langston gave Council a full report on Project updates, Water treatment operations, wastewater operations, and Distribution & Collection. Mr. Langston stated they have staffed much needed positions. The 2022 consumer confidence report regarding water quality will be on the City Website soon. That report is due in July of each year. Council was informed that a filter at the water treatment operation is back in serve and functioning well after some issues. Mr. Langston stated during a recent leak, the light towers from the fire department were a huge help.
- f. City Event Schedule -Debbie Gravely gave Council the upcoming event schedule for Spring, Summer, and Fall. She discussed an event for July, and Council was informed that Anna Chastain will be coming to talk about an Appalachian Festival in October. Ms. Gravely did state the events may need some extra funding for the bands.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Davis called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Patrick Lark, seconded by Council Member Robert Nealy, and unanimously approved. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Donna E. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:


Mayor Pro-Tem, Jimmy Davis