

**Regular Committee of the Whole
May 22, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

The Mayor and City Council met as the Committee of the whole in the Council Chambers at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. Agendas were posted and sent to media on May 19, 2023. (noted was the absence of Council Member Robert Nealy and Council Member Isaiah Scipio.)

Council Members in attendance:

Mayor Fletcher Perry
Council Member Jimmy Davis, Mayor Pro-Tem
Council Member Patrick Lark
Council Member Lois Porter

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Robert Nealy
Council Member Isaiah Scipio

Staff:

Administrator, Charlene Carter
Police Chief, Randal Beach
Fire Chief, Chris Elrod
Finance Director, Mandy Hess
Drew Langston, CWS Project Manager
Recreation Director, Jonathan Morris
Francisco Mendoza, Supervisor of Public Works

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

- 1) Jimmy Patten- Mr. Patten spoke to Council regarding the Jeep explosion. Mr. Patten is expecting a large turn out that will benefit the Cities restaurants, gas stations, and other businesses. Mr. Patten understands the Council's concern with the event being on private property (Market at the Mill) but thinks the impact on the city will be the largest, especially with billboards, radio, and social media. Mr. Patten asked about the event cost. Administrator Carter stated the event cost per vendor will be \$25.00. Council concurred they would like to stay involved and keep the history of the Jeep event. The mayor also stated the Market at the Mill has become a partnership for the city as they have been instrumental in helping grow businesses to the point they are on main street.
- 2) Barry Crawford- Mr. Crawford, facilities manager for the Market at the Mill stated he never wanted anyone to think that the Market is taking events away from "Main Street" it is important to have events of all types going on all the time. Mr. Crawford agreed some events are too large for Main street and the Market is a good starting place. Mr. Crawford stated it is important to keep the Jeep event in Pickens because other towns are trying to get this event. Mr. Crawford also apologized regarding the recent food truck show- he stated he did not realize the trucks needed DHEC and Fire inspections.

>>Council Member Jimmy Davis stated that recently Barry and the Market helped raise over \$4,000.00 for a child that needed surgery. Mr. Davis thanked them for helping this family in need.

Leadership Pickens Certificate:

Lisa Turnick with the Chamber of Commerce presented the graduate certificate for Leadership Pickens to Recreation Director Jonathan Morris. Mr. Morris was not able to be in attendance when the other graduates received their certificates. Mr. Morris stated this was a program that he would encourage, as he learned much more about Pickens County.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: MAY 8TH 2023:

>>>Motion was made by Council Member Patrick Lark, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of May 8th, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CITY COUNCIL:

Ms. Carter discussed that she and staff have been working on the following items and gave further information on each topic.

- Discussion Roll Cart additional purchase. Ms. Carter updated Council about the additional carts to be purchased with ARPA funds as well as the extra for events and citizens' request.
- Discussion Jaycee Park improvements ARPA fund. Ms. Carter went over items that will be spent from ARPA funds to re-open the playground by summer such as mulch, topsoil, sod, and replacing railroad ties with composite. Ms. Carter also went over grants, and other sources of funding as this project moves forward. Council agreed for staff to move forward.
- Discussion Baker Street Re-zoning. Ms. Carter explained that East Baker Street is zoned R12, and it recently came to the attention of the Planning Commission that Baker Street needs to be rezoned R8 which would meet the 8,000 square foot minimum lot size. Staff recommends rezoning and will not have any impact on surrounding properties because they are all residential as well.
- Discussion Ann Street Transitional Overlay District. Ms. Carter updated Council regarding a special request to allow certain businesses on Ann Street, specifically 247 Ann Street. Ms. Carter went over some ordinance language that would allow permitted uses and non-permitted uses. Administrator Carter explained many municipalities find it necessary to have Neighborhood Preservation Corridor Overlay Districts. Ms. Carter stated if Council moves forward this item will go back to the Planning Commission for amendments.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE for (May)

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

- a. Administration: Administrator Carter went over Administration, Public Works, and Court. Ms. Carter stated the Secona Road project was complete, and staff are looking at Secona Road as it relates to future retention ponds. The 2023/24 budget has been the priority and she and staff have had several meetings. Also noted were grants that are being applied for on several projects. Administrator Carter and Mayor Perry discussed the importance of Pickens being present at the Pickens County Municipal Association meetings. (staff will work on this issue after budget, to possible move back to a first and third Monday meeting)
Administrator Carter stated that during the budget process, she realized there are (2) bank accounts that need signature cards changed so that she and the Finance Director can obtain statements and information. Council will sign for those signature cards to be changed.
- b. Fire --Fire Chief Elrod gave Council a complete report of the Fire department that is included in the agenda packet. Chief Elrod highlighted several grants that have been obtained such as battery-operated fans. Chief Elrod stated the ladder truck is operating, and citizens have made good comments about the ladder truck.
- c. Police- Police Chief Beach gave Council a complete report of the Police department that is included in the agenda packet. Chief Beach regretfully reported that arrests are over 400, and police officers have been assaulted. The department is busy and extremely dedicated to the needs of the citizens. Chief Beach thanked the fire department for their assistance in public safety.
- d. Recreation Director Morris – Recreation Director Morris gave Council a full report of the activities of the Recreation Department. Highlighted were summer camp programs will begin and have over 20 children enrolled. Baseball, Softball, and T-ball are successful. Also noted were the football and cheerleading uniforms have been ordered.
- e. Water & Sewer - Project Manager Langston gave Council a full report of the projects that are included in the agenda packet. Mr. Langston stated staff are working diligently on safety. Also, staff is working meter reading and looking at software. Mr. Langston reported Trey Adams has been promoted to supervisor. In closing Mr. Langston stated he is working to get the water safety report online.

FY 23/24 Budget Worksheets Revenue & Expenses: (complete department budgets are distributed in full and can be found on the City Website and Facebook page)

- Administrator will discuss revenues and millage rate – Administrator Carter opened the 2023/2024 budget discussion by presenting a balanced budget that includes a 4% Cost of Living increase, and a (3) mill tax increase. Ms. Carter presented the budget calendar for First Reading to be on June 12, 2023, Public Hearing and Second reading to be June 26, 2023. Ms. Carter went over the general fund, hospitality fund, and victims advocate fund. Ms. Carter went over all departments regarding proposed changes as well as the use of ARPA funds. The budget also included the contracts with Blue Lion Digital for Social Media and Marketing. Also included is the contract for City Events via the

Chamber of Commerce. Administrator Carter also pointed out that while the budget looks significantly higher at \$9,065,621, there are funds such as ARPA, Hospitality, and Utility that will offset those numbers.

- Finance Director discuss Bonds- Finance Director Mandy Hess went over the Bonds with Council and informed them of current bond debt as well as future bond payoffs.
- All departments will address requests - Each Department Head went through their budget request in depth to include personnel, capital items, office space, and uniform expenses. Many departments expressed the need to retain personnel. Department Heads presented quotes for capital projects to include software and computer updates. Council was able to ask questions and inquire about issues unique to each department. Council and staff discussed the fact that Pickens is growing, and personnel will need to grow with it, as well as the need for building space.

Council thanked Administrator Carter and the Department Heads for an excellent review of the 2023/2024 budget. Members of Council pointed out this was a most thorough budget review and a positive interaction with Administrator Carter and staff. Many Council Members commented this has been one of the most productive budget work sessions and were very appreciative of the work that went into the budget. Administrator Carter also thanked her staff individually for their efforts and additionally commented Pickens was fortunate to have these employees.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business of the Council, Mayor Perry called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Patrick Lark, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter, and unanimously approved. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Mayor, Fletcher Perry