

Regular Council Meeting
July 10, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Mayor Perry and City Council met in Regular Session in the Council Chambers at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. Agendas were posted and sent to media on July 6, 2023. (noted the resignation of Council Member Patrick Lark)

Council Members in attendance:

Mayor Fletcher Perry
Council Member Lois Porter
Council Member Robert Nealy
Council Member Isaiah Scipio

Staff:

Administrator, Charlene Carter
City Attorney, Daniel Hughes
Police Chief, Randal Beach
Rodney Crenshaw, Captain Fire Department

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Perry called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Council Member Isaiah Scipio gave the Invocation and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

- 1) Caroline Rogers – Ms. Rogers thanked the Fire and Police for a phenomenal job with the July 1st celebration and former President Trump Rally. Ms. Rogers also thanked Public Works for all the cleaning and stated the City really looked nice. Ms. Rogers stated she does have concerns about the City Administrator regarding her leadership and communication style. Ms. Rogers informed Ms. Carter she thought she had an opportunity back in November of 2022 relating to the dismissal of the Recreation Director, to demonstrate leadership and the ability to hear what the community was saying. Robert Nealy called a Point of Order and requested Ms. Rogers direct her comments directly to the Council and not Ms. Carter. Ms. Rogers stated she was making eye contact with Ms. Carter out of professionalism, but she would be direct with Council. Ms. Rogers continued with her concerns and gave examples of issues since November when she thought Ms. Carter could have been more in touch with what the community of Pickens is seeking. Regarding communication, Ms. Rogers stated that during the planning for July 1st it would have been good for more information to be forthcoming from the Administrator. Also, the clean up after the July 1st storm – Ms. Rogers stated that Ms. Carter was not among those who were cleaning. In addition, Ms. Rogers stated that the City of Pickens Facebook page had numerous comments about the events/planning for vendors- Ms. Rogers said the comments back from the City were lacking with empathy and were not desirable for other vendors that may want to participate in future events. In conclusion, Ms. Rogers asked the Council to render a solution for citizens of Pickens to be understood and heard.
- 2) Rebecca Newman – Ms. Newman came before Council and stated while she has some concerns, she is addressing Council this evening with positive comments only. Ms. Newman stated she was thankful for all the professionalism and hard work during the July 1st celebrations and Trump Rally. As a citizen she thought everything was well planned and safe. Ms. Newman spent time talking

about the Chief of Police, Randal Beach. Ms. Newman, stated as an active member of Pickens, Chief Beach is a true asset to the Pickens community and gave examples of him having (2) meetings a day to ensure the safety of Pickens during and after the Trump Rally and made mention of the storm that happened on Saturday July 1st which caused much debris, and Chief Beach was personally seen Saturday night and into Sunday cleaning up. Ms. Newman concluded by stating she is a lifelong resident, and she has enormous respect for the service that Chief Beach provides for the City of Pickens, and especially the youth.

- 3) Representative Davey Hiott- Mr. Hiott stated to Council that he agrees with the previous speakers as it relates to the July 1st Trump Rally. The Rally brought over 38,000 people to Pickens and all the countless hours that went into planning were obvious. The event was successful with many resources being utilized. Representative Hiott stated he was part of the initial conversations regarding Pickens being a location for a Trump Rally and he informed Council that the experience from Chief Beach was a large part of this Rally's success. Mr. Hiott said Chief Beach is one of the best, and Pickens is fortunate to have a person in this position of experience and integrity.
- 4) Danny Parton-Thanked officials for many things he sees going on in the City of Pickens that he believes are being done well. He thanked the Administrator, Police, Fire, and Public Works for all they are doing to provide good services to the City. He also agreed the Rally was a success and was planned well. Mr. Parton stated that as a citizen he personally wants to get to know staff better. He gave examples of many times he has seen Administrator Carter out working, and he thanked her for those efforts.
- 5) Barbara Robinson – Ms. Robinson came to Council with addresses and pictures of places where the trash is overflowing and not being picked up. Ms. Robinson stated her opinions regarding uniforms at the Recreation Department, and stated she expected the City workers to be diligent in cleaning up the City in the same manner that they cleaned prior to the July 1st Rally.
- 6) Chief Randal Beach- Chief Beach thanked the speakers for their kind words. However, Chief Beach stated the event of July 1st would not have been as successful without Fire Chief Chris Elrod and Captain Rodney Crenshaw. Chief Beach presented them with the Pickens Police Memorandum Accommodations Award. Chief Beach also recognized other members of his staff who were in attendance. (officers – Nally, Valdez, and Whimpey) Chief Beach thanked the Fire Department for their skill set of providing fire protection and medical necessity daily and especially as it relates to the July 1st Rally.
- 7) Ernestine Wilson- Ms. Wilson gave her address as 112 Morris Lane. She has complaints regarding a neighboring property being overgrown with grass, brush, and rodents. Ms. Wilson stated the water pressure in this area is extremely low.
- 8) Pat Mulky- Mr. Mulky commented on the July 1st celebration and Trump Rally. Mr. Mulky stated he was at the Amphitheater with the City Administrator and Events Coordinator. Mr. Mulky stated they were working hard during the Rally and after the storm. Mr. Mulky thanked Ms. Carter for all the planning that she put into this event. Mr. Mulky also recognized City employees, police, fire, EMS for an excellent job.

Resignation of Council Member Patrick Lark:

Mayor Perry stated for the record that Patrick Lark has made the decision to resign from the Pickens City Council. Mayor Perry stated Patrick was serving his fourth term and he will be missed. The Mayor and Council wish Patrick well with his new endeavors. Mayor Perry stated Patrick was an extremely thoughtful and fair-minded elected official.

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-10 Baker Street Re-Zoning:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Jimmy Davis, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter, and unanimously approved that this constitutes second and final reading of Ordinance No. 2023-10.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: CODE OF LAWS, SECTION 30-4-70-CITY COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS CONTRACTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio and seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis to enter executive session for the stated purposes. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, seconded by Council Member Robert Nealy, and unanimously approved to reconvene into Public Session.

ACTION AS IT RELATES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

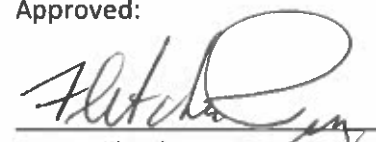
Hearing no further business, Mayor Perry called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Lois Porter, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis, and unanimously passed. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Mayor Fletcher Perry