

**Special called City Council Meeting
September 7, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Perry and City Council met for a special called meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall 219 Pendleton Street, Pickens S.C. Agendas were posted and sent to media on September 6, 2023.

Council Members in attendance:

Mayor Fletcher Perry
Council Member Jimmy Davis, Mayor Pro-Tem
Council Member Lois Porter
Council Member Robert Nealy
Council Member Isaiah Scipio

Staff:

City Attorney, Daniel Hughes
Police Chief, Randal Beach
Fire Captain, Rodney Crenshaw

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.

PROCLAMATION TO PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 17TH -23RD CONSTITUTION WEEK:

>>Mayor Perry read the Proclamation to Proclaim the week of September 17th as Constitution Week. Ann Kilpatrick and Carolyn Yarbrough were in attendance and received the proclamation.

(the minutes are not verbatim; a full video and recording can be found on the City Website and Facebook page)

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS:

Citizens Pam Winter, Larry Martin, and Jessica Massey came before Council to express their opposition to a development in the Wolf Creek School Road and Mauldin lake Road area of Pickens. Larry Martin gave the Council a petition from citizens who were also opposed. The citizens stated they were not opposed to housing being in this area, but they were opposed to the density of the sub-division plan. Citizens expressed the importance for studied growth, and gave examples regarding traffic, schools, sidewalks, and other infrastructure. The request was for Council to not pass the annexation ordinance that is on the agenda and to seek more information regarding the sub-division plans.

Ernestine Wilson- Ms. Wilson gave thanks for the assistance regarding overgrowth on property. Ms. Wilson also stated she was opposed to the Council Members who voted to allow severance pay for the previous administrator. Ms. Wilson stated when a person leaves employment, they should not receive taxpayers' money.

Lisa Welch- Ms. Welch announced the 2024 dates for the Pickens Azalia Festival would be April 26th -27th and this will be the festival's 40th anniversary.

Coretta Arnold- Ms. Arnold stated she still had concerns with the water on Secona from Dean Street regarding dangerous flooding due to ditches not being cleaned out. Ms. Arnold also stated thanks for the work that was completed on Secona, but the runoff still needs additional work. Ms. Arnold stated she was having problems with the fact that the City is not picking up construction & demolition, therefore this forces trips to the landfill, and the trips to the landfill are limited.

Edwina Long – Ms. Long stated she had several items to state. She did not think the Administrator should have more power in the than the Mayor of our town. Ms. Long stated she believed everything needs to be transparent so that citizens can ask questions and voice their opinions. Ms. Long gave the example of money being spent for the Trump Rally, and now citizens may have to pay that money back through increased taxes or water. Ms. Long stated she was opposed to the council allowing severance pay for a person who resigned, and further stated this was not appropriate oversight of taxpayer's money.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Lois Porter, seconded by Council Member Robert Nealy, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes as presented.

- a) Regular Meeting, August 14th, 2023
- b) Special Called Meeting, August 21st, 2023

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2023-13- ANNEXATION NORTH SIDE WOLF CREEK ROAD AND MAULDIN LAKE ROAD:

>>Council Member Isaiah Scipio stated he thought the council should listen to all the citizens and not rush this ordinance. Council Member Isaiah Scipio further made a motion to table the first reading of Ordinance No. 2023-13. Council Member Jimmy Davis seconded the motion, hearing no discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

>>after the vote to Table the above motion, it was brought to Council's attention that the developer of the Wolf Creek/Mauldin Lake Road property would like to speak. Attorney Hughes stated the Mayor could entertain a motion to suspend the rules and allow the developer to speak, however, the vote was complete.

Motion to Suspend the rules to Allow comments:

>> Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis, and unanimously passed to suspend the rules to allow comments relating to the development of Wolf Creek/Mauldin Lake Road property. Attorney Hughes clarified the developer is being allowed to speak due to the suspension of the rules, but the vote has passed to Table the motion.

Mr. John Culbertson, BRD Land Investments thanked Council for allowing him to speak. Mr. Culbertson stated he did not realize this issue was anything but a simple annexation, and he

thought the process of looking at overall building project would be determined at the Planning Commission level. Mr. Culbertson stated the design for this project had erroneously been released and was placed on social media. This is unfortunate because BRD does not have a plan submitted for this project at this date. Mr. Culbertson concluded by stating he hoped all citizens would realize this error and allow the process of the reality for this project.

DISCUSSION REGARDING MOVING THE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS TO THE SENIOR CENTER LOCATION:

Mayor Perry stated he would like to consider moving the Council Meetings to the location of the Senior Center in Pickens due to not having ample space for the citizens to be involved in meetings. Council requested more information as it relates to cost associated with internet connections and the ability to livestream.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Robert Nealy, seconded by Council Member Isaiah Scipio to table this until costs are communicated.

REQUEST FOR FUNDS-FIRST ANNUAL PICKENS APPALACHIAN FOLK FESTIVAL:

Debbie Gravely asked Council for permission to spend \$5000.00 of the \$10,000.00 that has been budgeted and set aside for the Appalachian Folk Festival.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Robert Nealy, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis, and unanimously passed to approve the expenditure as requested.

REQUEST FOR FUNDS- RIDE TO THE ROCK:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Jimmy Davis, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter and unanimously passed to fund Ride to the Rock the same as last year at \$600.00.

CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS REGARDING INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND FY 2023/24 BUDGET AND TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING SAME AS ALLOWED BY S.C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70 (A)(1) AND S.C. CODE SECTION 30-4-70(A)(2).

>>Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis, and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter, and unanimously passed to reconvene in public session.

ACTION AS IT RELATES TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1) Contract Interim Administrator:

>>Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis, and unanimously approved to contract with Trey Eubanks to provide the services as Interim Administrator.

2) Authorize the Finance Director to enter into a contract with Greene/Finney to provide an audit for the last (2) years.

>>Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, second by Council Member Jimmy Davis, and unanimously passed the authorize the Finance Director to contract with Greene/Finney for a (2) year audit.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Lois Porter, seconded by Council Member Jimmy Davis, and unanimously passed. Pickens City Council stood adjourned at 8:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:



Mayor Fletcher Perry