

**Regular called City Council Work Session Committee of the Whole
October 23, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Perry and City Council met in Council Work Session 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 October 18, 2023.

Council Members in attendance:

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

Staff:

Interim Administrator, Trey Eubanks
Police Chief, Randal Beach
Fire Captain, Rodney Crenshaw
Finance Director, Mandy Hess
Johnathan Morris, Recreation
Drew Langston, CWS Project Manager

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Perry called the work session to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mayor Perry further asked Council Member Isaiah Scipio to give the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Perry made the comment that the audience is full and asked the Council Members to please reconsider moving the meetings to the Senior Center.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

- 1) Edwina Lone- Ms. Lone talked about citizens and elected officials having division and being poor examples of openness and communication. Ms. Lone stated the citizens needed answers and need to know why certain issues happen. Ms. Lone gave the example of the former recreation director, and stated the people had a right to know why he was terminated.
- 2) Barbara Robinson- Ms. Robinson asked about the \$5.00 capital improvement fee that was on the water bills. Also, Ms. Robinson stated the new apartments that opened as income-based housing started at \$1,000.00 per month, and she thought that was beyond income based.
>>Ms. Robinson was informed that the improvement fee was placed on the water bills about (2) years ago and is in an account for repairing water lines.

Questions were raised about road work within the City, specifically West Lee/Lee Streets. It was confirmed that these are State Roads and not City maintained.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

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

- a. ADMINISTRATIVE -Finance, Public Works, Court - Mr. Eubanks presented Council with a full memorandum to inform them about the Water system capital improvement project,

an MOU relating to TRACK Trail Partnership, Jaycee Park funding from the County, posting for the City Administrator position, the FY 2022 Audit, and informed Council about a meeting with departments, members of council and Greenville Water. Recreation Director gave Council more information relating to TRACK Trail partnership. This is a partnership with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation to put kids in parks program and to engage kids and families in outdoor recreation.

- b. POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Beach presented his full report to Council and discussed continued events in Pickens as being positive but extremely busy. Also, Council was updated regarding continued meetings in problem areas of Hampton Ave. Chief Beach is encouraged to continue positive meetings and possible improvements with this group home. Chief Beach reminded everyone about the handicapped swing that will be installed at the Doodle Park on Nov. 3.
- c. FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Elrod presented his full report to Council and updated Council that the department is at full staff after the resignation of a captain. Council was informed that calls were up to over 500 this year. Truck maintenance is in progress and being done in-house.
- d. RECREATION – Director Jonathan Morris gave his full report to Council and updated all regarding Jaycee Park being a priority. Council was updated regarding vandalism in the restrooms at Jaycee Park. Mr. Morris gave more information regarding fixing the BMX Bike trail and stated that people were attracted to these types of outdoor space. Public Works has replaced fencing on the Doodle Trail.
- e. UTILITY - Director Drew Langston presented the full report to Council. Mr. Langston stated the departments were focused on safety as they have a lot of work that is close to the road, and they are often out late at night. Leaks continue to be problematic. Council was also updated about a very good report from a DHEC inspection at the Wastewater plant. Mr. Langston praised the personnel relating to this report. Council was updated about the alarm that went off at a lift station on Mauldin Lake Road, there was not an issue, only a faulty alarm.
Mayor Perry stated he thought it would be good to have engineer Troy Rosier to brief Council relating to the problem areas related to leaks, and point out the priority areas.

Comments from Council:

Council Member Isaiah Scipio expressed the importance of hiring the new Administrator. Mr. Scipio stated he would like to utilize the entire Council and citizens from different areas to be involved in the process.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, Mayor Perry called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Council Member Isaiah Scipio, seconded by Council Member Lois Porter, and unanimously approved. City of Pickens Council stood adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:


Donna F. Owen, City Clerk

Approved:


Mayor, Fletcher Perry