

Pickens County Council Work Session/Retreat
January 24, 2019
6:30 PM

County Council met for a work session/retreat at the Baptist Easley Hospital Board Room, with Chairman Roy Costner presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to members of council and local news media on January 18, 2019.

Council Members in Attendance:

Ensley Feemster
Roy Costner
Chris Bowers
Carl Hudson
Wes Hendricks
Trey Whitehurst

Staff in Attendance:

Gerald Wilson, County Administrator
Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Roy Costner called the planning meeting to order and thanked everyone for their participation. Chairman Roy Costner led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Council discussed goals and objectives collectively during the previous updates provided by the Administrator and members of staff.

DEFINE VISION FOR PICKENS COUNTY - ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Council discussed their vision for Pickens County in ten years and compiled the list below, in no particular order:

1. Furnish the room at the new prison that will be used as the chapel and get churches involved
2. New Commerce Park
3. Get Mile Creek in good shape
4. Location for Fort Prince George
5. Plan for Roads and Bridges and paving program
6. Reasonable taxes compared to other surrounding counties
7. Look for efficiencies in our basic services; sustainable plan
8. Smaller Commerce Parks around county
9. Keeping and getting good employees- health insurance at lower price
10. Forward thinking in anticipating financial needs
11. Recruitment for employees
12. Opportunities in Tourism
13. Explore successes in other counties regarding Tourism
14. Economic Development in existing buildings in Pickens County
15. Decision on Fire/Emergency Services Plan
16. Look at support ideas for local charities
17. Sustainable plan for Recreation
18. Sustainable Capital Plan

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Finance Director, Ralph Guarino, provided an overview on the following items: budget calendar for the 2019-2020 fiscal year; and overview of the County’s debt; the general fund schedule of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance. Mr. Guarino discussed this financial report thoroughly with council and stated this report is on the county website as well.

After much discussion, Administrator Gerald Wilson further stated that Council has made a lot of progress throughout the County last years. He briefed the members of council on all of the following:

1. Fund Balance
2. Landfill Closure
3. Road User Fee
4. Radio System
5. Budget
6. Tourism Property
7. ED Property
8. Recreation Funding and Property Cost
9. Lease on County Buildings
10. MOU’s Municipalities – Storm water, Building Insurance, Shelter
11. Legal Fees
12. Dock Bids at Mile Creek Park
13. Madden Bridge
14. Tipping Fees

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

Roy B. Costner, III, Chairman of
Pickens County Council