

Pickens County Organizational Council Meeting  
January 3, 2019  
6:30 PM

County Council met in special session for the purpose of the organizational meeting. The meeting was held in the Council Auditorium, at the County Administration Facility, with County Attorney Ken Roper presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media on December 27, 2018.

Council Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Attorney  
Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council  
Gerald Wilson, County Administrator

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

County Attorney, Ken Roper, called the Organizational Meeting of January 3, 2019 to order immediately following the swearing-in ceremony for Council Members: Ensley Feemster and Trey Whitehurst. Mr. Roper stated he would preside over the meeting until such time Council elects its Chairman.

**ADOPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL RULES:**

Acting Chairman, Ken Roper, stated it has been pointed out by some council members that the organizational rules are still in Committee of the Whole, and as such, we will allow the Committee to do the work before we institute any changes. Mr. Roper stated we will continue operating unless there is any objection to the existing rules. Seeing none, Mr. Roper continued on to the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Acting Chairman, Ken Roper, led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Acting Chairman Ken Roper called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- November 5, 2018
- December 13, 2018-Special Called Meeting
- December 3, 2018
- Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and the motion was carried to approve the referenced minutes, with Councilman Trey Whitehurst abstaining (5-0).

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

The County Administrator, Gerald Wilson, stated the bids went out for the Madden Bridge Park and they anticipate those coming back in on January 22nd. Mr. Wilson stated once they come in, he will brief Council on what the bids are and move forward with the process.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, at the Pickens County Administration Facility, on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 6:15 p.m. All members of the committee were in attendance with the exception of Councilman Trey Whitehurst; with Chairman Roy Costner presiding.

### **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Roy Costner called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order immediately after the Special-Called Council Meeting.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

Chairman Roy Costner stated the first item for discussion is Executive Session.

#### **Executive Session: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a)**

##### **Personnel – Section 30-4-70 (a) (1)**

##### **Personnel Matter**

- ❖ Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to convene into executive session regarding Personnel Matter, specifically related to the Election Update, Log No. 114. Motion was made by Councilman Wes Hendricks, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (5-0).

##### **Election Update- Log No. 114**

- ❖ No action taken by committee.

### **Council Action on Log No. 114:**

- ❖ **No action taken by Committee.**

#### **E911 – Log No. 105**

- Administrator Gerald Wilson stated Sheriff Clark, Tasha Todd and Scott Smith will be briefing council on 911.
- Scott Smith stated they have had several meetings between the Sheriff and Emergency Services and have identified some specific areas they would like to address. He stated they would like to salvage what they have at this point. Mr. Smith stated they would like to make a few corrections on personnel matter, but basically work together as a unified system. He stated the most cost effective way would be to salvage and work with what they have.
- Sheriff Clark stated they have looked at what everyone needs for the people they serve and they have been working to improve communication. He stated over the past few months, they have had dispatch employees out of the office due to medical reasons. He stated around three weeks ago, they started back on the EMD (Emergency Management Dispatching) to start good training. After more discussion, Sheriff Clark stated they had a great meeting this morning and he feels like everything is coming together. He feels that in six months, they will be able to report back to council to give an update on where they are.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bower asked what the total call volume the dispatch center takes in per year, and is there a breakdown of what calls they are.
- Sheriff Clark stated between 150,000-170,000 calls per year.
- Tasha Todd stated as far as 911, around 70% of the calls are admin and around 30% is 911. Admin meaning non-emergency, which is the 898-5500 number at the sheriff's office. She stated most of these calls are people asking to speak to the sheriff, etc.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked what the main problems are that they are facing.
- Scott Smith stated the number of things that dispatchers are tasked to do, having to mix the calls in with the sheriff's office being the main problem.
- Gerald Wilson stated they would like to get friendlier with their cards, train our employees better on how to use those protocols, look into priority dispatchers, etc. He stated it's not like they are doing terrible, but they have found room for improvement. Mr. Wilson stated they have found ways with both offices on how to train the employees

- better by doing one-on-one training.
- Chairman Roy Costner asked how many dispatchers there are.
- Gerald Wilson stated there are a total of 21 employees- 16 are dispatcher, 4 are part-time fill in, and 1 supervisor. The office is manned 24/7.
- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers stated at one time, they had talked about splitting offices. He asked what the cost would be if they were to do that.
- Gerald Wilson stated we are always stronger together than we are separate, but one of the problems with splitting will mean we will have to duplicate resources, hire more staff, additional cost for a trunk line downstairs with a maintenance fee, personnel costs, etc. He stated we have invested 20-30 years into what dispatch is doing right now and have realized to better serve the residents of Pickens County, we owe them an effort to see how we can become more efficient internally. Mr. Wilson stated he thinks we need to slow down with this process and look what we have. He stated in 3-4 months if this situation isn't fixed, that is when he feels it will be time to discuss. Mr. Wilson stated he wants the system to be efficient for the taxpayers, and premium service at the best possible price that benefits the most people.
- Tasha Todd stated everyone staying together is better for the County if everyone is on the same page.
- ❖ After much more discussion with Staff, Committee recommends staff gather more information and report back to Council in the April 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**Council Action on Log No. 105:**

- ❖ **Committee recommends staff gather more information and report back to Council in the April 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Committee business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Carl Hudson, seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks and carried unanimously. The Committee of the Whole stood adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Roper provided an overview of the rules for nominations. He further informed Council he would take nominations for Chairman, and would continue to take nominations until such time nominations are closed, at which time Council would vote in order of the nominations.

**ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN:**

Acting Chairman, Ken Roper, opened the floor for nominations of Council Chairman.

- Councilman Carl Hudson moved to nominate Councilman Roy Costner as Chairman. Councilman Ensley Feemster seconded this nomination.

Mr. Roper asked if there were any further nominations for Council Chairman. Hearing none, Mr. Roper called for a motion to close the nominations.

- Councilman Ensley Feemster moved to close nominations. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and unanimously passed.

Mr. Roper turned the gavel over to Chairman Roy Costner and congratulated his position.

**ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN:**

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for nominations for Council Vice Chairman.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks moved to nominate Councilman Chris Bowers as Vice Chairman. Chairman Roy Costner seconded this nomination.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if there were any further nominations for Council Vice Chairman. Hearing none, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to close the nominations.

- Councilman Wes Hendricks moved to close nominations. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and unanimously passed.

Chairman Roy Costner announced Chris Bowers as the Vice Chairman.

**ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIR PRO TEMPORE:**

Chairman Roy Costner opened the floor for nominations for Council Vice Chairman Pro Tempore.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to nominate Councilman Wes Hendricks as Vice Chair Pro Tempore. Chairman Roy Costner seconded this nomination.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if there were any further nominations for Council Vice Chair Pro Tempore. Hearing none, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to close the nominations.

- Vice Chairman Chris Bowers moved to close nominations. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and unanimously passed.

Chairman Roy Costner announced Wes Hendricks as the Vice Chair Pro-Tempore.

**CHAIR APPOINTMENTS:**

Chairman Roy Costner stated since we have moved the adoption of Organizational Rules to Committee of the Whole, he would like to postpone doing any chair appointments at this time unless Council has any objections. Seeing none, Chairman Costner moved forward to the Consent Agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a) Council Retreat: Chairman Roy Costner stated he would like to change the name of this to Council Budget Workshop/Retreat. The Council Budget Workshop/Retreat will be scheduled at a later date.
- b) Council Meeting Schedule: Chairman Roy Costner announced the Council would follow the same meeting schedule, the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Roy Costner asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Bowers, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No items to discuss in Executive Session.

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Roy Costner called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chris Bowers, seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Meagan Bradford, Clerk to Council

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