

Pickens County Organizational Council Meeting
January 4, 2017
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 30, 2016.

Council Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Attorney
Crystal A. Alexander, Clerk to Council
Gerald Wilson, County Administrator

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

County Attorney, Ken Roper, called the Organizational Meeting of January 4, 2017 to order immediately following the swearing-in ceremony for Council Members: Chris Bowers, Roy Costner, Wes Hendricks, and Carl Hudson. Mr. Roper stated he would preside over the meeting until such time Council elects its Chairman.

ADOPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL RULES:

Acting Chairman, Ken Roper, called for a motion to adopt the Organizational Rules, as presented.

- Council voted unanimously to adopt the rules, as presented.

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 minutes from the December 5, 2016 Council meeting with the understanding the only council members present at the referenced meeting were Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Councilman Ensley Feemster.

- Council unanimously approved the minutes, as presented.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

The County Administrator, Gerald Wilson, welcomed the new council members and thanked the existing council members. Mr. Wilson further stated he and the staff look forward to working with council; they are excited about the goals and vision that will be set. Lastly, he thanked Council for what they do.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No committee reports to present.

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 Chris Bowers moved to nominate Councilman Roy Costner as Chairman.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to nominate Councilman Ensley Feemster as Chairman.

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 Wes Hendricks moved to close nominations. Motion was seconded by Carl Hudson and unanimously passed.

Mr. Roper called for the following votes for Council Chairman:

- Councilman Roy Costner:
 - Vote of 4-2, with Councilman Roy Costner, Councilman Chris Bowers, Councilman Carl Hudson and Councilman Wes Hendricks in favor.
- Councilman Ensley Feemster:
 - Vote of 2-4, with Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Councilman Ensley Feemster in favor.

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.
- Councilman Ensley Feemster moved to nominate Councilman Trey Whitehurst as Vice Chairman.
 - Councilman Trey Whitehurst respectfully declined the 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 Trey Whitehurst moved to close nominations. Motion was seconded by Councilman Carl Hudson and unanimously passed.

Chairman Roy Costner announced Chris Bowers as the Vice Chairman.

ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE:

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

- Councilman Carl Hudson moved to nominate Councilman Wes Hendricks as Vice Chairman Pro Tempore.

Chairman Roy Costner asked if there were any further nominations for Council Vice Chairman 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 Wes Hendricks and unanimously passed.

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

CHAIR APPOINTMENTS:

Chairman Roy Costner announced chair appointments would be made after the Council Retreat; and further announced, that at this time, the only acting committee of the council will be the Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Roy Costner asked Council if there was any other new business to discuss.

- Councilman Carl Hudson moved to suspend the rules and direct the staff to research recreation funds and fully brief Council at the next meeting. As a part of this motion, Councilman Carl Hudson moved to freeze all recreation fund accounts, to include but not limited to: any transfers, disbursements, etc., until which time council has been briefed on the recreation funds and votes to lift the freeze. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wes Hendricks.
 - During much discussion, Councilman Trey Whitehurst clarified the process for recreation fund disbursements and stated his concerns with the proposed action. Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked the County Attorney, Ken Roper, if this Council can supersede any previous Council action.
 - Ken Roper responded the Council in corporate meeting tonight is the Council that has authority to direct staff today and tomorrow. Mr. Roper further stated the motion, as he understands it, is to freeze the account and that is within the authority of the Council.
- Motion carried with a 4-2 vote, with Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Councilman Ensley Feemster opposed, to suspend the rules and to freeze the recreation fund accounts, as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Council Retreat: Chairman Roy Costner announced the Council Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 14th at 8:30.
- b) Council Meeting Schedule: Chairman Roy Costner announced the Council would follow the same meeting schedule, the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

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 7:01 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Crystal A. Alexander, Clerk to Council

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