

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Public Hearing Agenda and Called Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 11, 2021 6:00PM

Commissioners in Attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Mike Streat, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance

Franklin Rozier, County Attorney
Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager
Amy Hitt, County Clerk

1. Call to Order – Chairman Bennett called the public hearing to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Randy Dixon gave an invocation and Commissioner Mike Streat led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Discussion on the proposed 2022 General Fund, Recreation Fund and E 911 Fund Budgets. Opportunity to public feedback. Chairman Bennett opened the floor for discussion on the proposed 2022 Budget. Darlene Loftin, Chair of the Board of Elections asked that the Board of Commissioners approve the budget that they requested and not what is being presented. The Board of Elections is authorized in their bylaws to approve a budget. Myra James, Board Member shared a letter from Brian Hersey. Lea Parker stated that she had spent six years working in that office and doesn't understand how someone who doesn't know how elections works can determine what they need budgeted to operate. Chairman Bennett asked what the original request was and was told \$167,796.25. Jamie Crisp, Poll Worker asked what budget was being voted on and under what authority were adjustments made to the request submitted? Some discussion was had about the process of submittal of the budget and then the Board of Commissioners asking the County Manager to make cuts to all department requests in order to balance the budget. Darlene Loftin asked that representatives from Elections be allowed to meet with the Chairman and Manager to discuss the Elections budget. Chairman Bennett asked how many elections are tentative for 2022? Leah Ritch stated that there will be May Primary, July Runoff, November and November Runoff so 4 possible with no crazy happenings. Darlene Loftin asked about the job reclassifications that were requested. Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager stated that they are being considered as part of a county wide pay scale revamp that is being worked on. Leah Ritch stated that they have been doing their part to save money. They combined polling places to reduce the number of locations and poll workers needed. We vote big in Pierce County, we have a better turn out than a lot of counties around us. Chairman Bennett stated that we all know the Elections is special in that the Board of Commissioners has no control

except the adopted budget. He can tell that there needs to be some more conversations about the budget. Commissioner Streat asked how far away from the original request are we in what has been proposed? Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager stated that its \$24,000.00 and \$11,000.00 is in salary adjustment requests. Darlene Loftin asked again that there be a meeting with some discussion prior to the adoption of the budget.

4. Close Public Hearing – Chairman Bennett closed the public hearing after no one else requested to speak at 6:55 P.M.

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Called Meeting Agenda
Thursday, November 11, 2021
Immediately Following Public Hearing

Commissioners in Attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Mike Streat, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance

Franklin Rozier, County Attorney
Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager
Amy Hitt, County Clerk

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment of adding a closed session at the end for personnel. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

3. Discussion and request to approve a lease agreement with John Deere for recreation department use - 1 Precision Cut Mower, 1 Bunker and Field Rake, 1 Gator. Equipment total of \$61,007.95 for 48 lease payments at \$1,115.23 to be paid from 2020 SPLOST – Recreation funds.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the lease agreement with John Deere for recreation department use - 1 Precision Cut Mower, 1 Bunker and Field Rake, 1 Gator. Equipment total of \$61,007.95 for 48 lease payments at \$1,115.23 to be paid from 2020 SPLOST – Recreation funds. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

4. Discussion and approval of agreements involving settlements in the Opiate Lawsuit we are a participant in. County Manager Rubenbauer stated that the anticipated settlements so far will bring approximately \$272,000.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the agreements as presented authorizing the Chairman, Neal Bennett to sign in relation to the settlements presented on the opiate lawsuit as presented to us by Tate Law Firm. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

5. Closed Session

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to go into closed session at 7:12 P.M. to discuss personnel. Commissioner David Lowman seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

Commissioner David Lowman made a motion to go back into the regular meeting at 7:27 P.M. Commissioner Randy Dixon seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

6. Adjourn – Chairman Bennett stated that no action was taken in Closed session and adjourned the meeting at 7:28 P.M.

Neal Bennett

Harold Rozier

Mike Streat

Randy Dixon

David Lowman