

December 01, 2008
Regular Council Meeting
6:00 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman G. Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting, were mailed to Council members and local news media, November 18, 2008.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Ben L. Trotter, Vice Chairman
Tom E. Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
James B. London
Jennifer H. Willis

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
Ken Roper, County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of December 1, 2008 to order and welcomed those in attendance. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Trotter.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith called upon the Clerk for a list of citizens signed up to address Council.

1. Perry Gravely. Mr. Gravely introduced the Troop 51 Boy Scouts. Mr. Gravely stated they were attending a council meeting for their merit badge.
>>Chairman Smith and Council welcomed the Boy Scouts to the Council Meeting.

2. Junius Smith. Mr. Smith informed Council that the Conservatives of Pickens County have delivered over 30 violations to the Governors office as it relates to the School Board. Mr. Smith also informed Council that while the School Board was in violation of citizens rights, the Development Standards Ordinance was as well. Mr. Smith further encouraged Council to think about the right of way issues in the DSO.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw to approve the minutes of November 17, 2008. All members voted in the affirmative with the exception of James London who abstained due to his absence from the meeting of the 17th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst reported on the following issues.

1. **Processing Building-** Mr. Hurst stated the Bio-diesel building construction costs were greater than anticipated. Therefore, Council was informed that County staff was

doing most of the work, and contracting out only what is necessary. Mr. Hurst stated that Pickens County was fortunate to have employees with such varied talents.

2. **State Budget Cuts-** Mr. Hurst reported that during economic hardships that the State will continue with budget cuts. Mr. Hurst informed Council that the County will be making efforts not to immediately fill positions that are currently vacant. Mr. Hurst stated he was working within each department, and when a department loses an employee, he will be making an effort to move other employees from other departments in order to compensate for some of these large budget cuts. Mr. Hurst stated this would be an important part of the budget evaluation for the coming fiscal year.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith reminded Council that the first meeting in January will be organizational only, and will begin at the regular time of 6:00 PM.

Committee Reports:

Committee Chairman Ben Trotter stated that the Committee of Justice and Public Safety met prior to the council meeting and discussed one item Log # 12 - a request to seek business license for metal recycling centers.

>>the committee stated that staff would report back at a later date.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor to Council for any new business.

1. Jennifer Willis moved to add to executive session contract issues. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
2. Neil Smith moved to add to executive session a legal issue, motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

Hearing no further motions, motion period was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 413 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDED AND RESTATED FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE RELIABLE AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER CO. INC. AND ADDING LASALLE NATIONAL LEASING CORPORATION, DE LAGE LANDEN FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., BANK OF AMERICA LEASING & CAPITAL, LLC, BB&T EQUIPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION AND CROWN CREDIT CORPORATION AS SPONSORS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for a public hearing for Ordinance No. 413; hearing no discussion, Chairman Smith closed the floor and allowed motions.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis and seconded by Ben Trotter that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 413. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 414 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND SUBSEQUENT CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE EDENS TRACT, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CAMPUS FOR TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN PICKENS COUNTY.

Chairman Smith opened the floor for a public hearing for Ordinance No. 414; hearing no discussion, Chairman Smith closed the floor and allowed motions.

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 414.

APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR LIBERTY FIRE STATION:

Mr. Hurst stated the bids were in as it relates to the Liberty Fire station, and staff recommends the bid going to Robinson Construction at the amount of \$611,439.00.

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to award the bid to Robinson Construction.

APPROVAL OF THE SOLID WASTE PLAN: Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the Solid Waste Plan.

APPROVAL OF 2008 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Chairman Smith stated that the Christmas holiday this year falls on a Thursday; therefore there has been a request to allow the holidays to be on Thursday and Friday instead of Wednesday and Thursday. Mr. Smith also stated that he saw no reason to be open all day on Christmas Eve.

During discussion, Mr. Trotter stated he would state that the holiday schedule for Pickens County should include the Veterans Day holiday. He further stated he had a difficult time discussing holiday schedules because of Veterans Day not being a county holiday.

Mr. Hurst stated he would recommend closing around noon or 1:00 on Wednesday and being closed Thursday and Friday.

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Tom Ponder to close County operations on Christmas Eve at noon and to return on Monday December 29, 2008.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.

Appointments to Fire District Boards

Economic Development Issue

Legal Issue

Contractual Issue

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the Public Session back to order and allowed the following motions.

Fire Districts –

The following Fire Districts were approved, Chairman Smith stated that due to time constraints and the fact that Councilman Trotter had to leave, that Pumpkintown and Vineyards would be placed on the next agenda.

Dacusville- Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis moved to approve the re-appointment of Dennis Bauknight and Sid Miller. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Crosswell- Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis moved to approve the re-appointment of Denver Owen, and to new appointment of Karl Earl. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Central – Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to re-appoint Charles Head and J.K. Dotson.

Shady Grove- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the re-appointment of John Abercrombie and David Jones.

Six Mile – Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the re-appointment of EP Stillwell and the new appointment of Bill Stephens.

Liberty – Motion was made by Chairman Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the re-appointment of William Powell and Dean Parker.

Easley – Motion was made by Chairman Smith, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to re-appoint Gerald Culler and Randy Looper—Jennifer Willis stated she would give council more applications for the vacancy that was still pending.

Holly Springs – Motion was made by Chairman Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the re-appointment of Bobby Cassell and to new appointment of James Alexander.

Pickens- Motion was made by Chairman Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to re-appoint Cless Holcombe and to appoint George Martin.

Rocky Bottom – Motion was made by Chairman Smith, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the re-appointment of Gordon Clark.

Economic Development –

Chairman Smith stated that the following Ordinances are pertaining to a new company, “Project Teddy Bear”, and the real name of the company will be announced in a few days.

1. Jennifer Willis moved that this constitutes a first reading of an Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement with Pickens County and “Teddy Bear Project.” Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.
2. Jennifer Willis moved that this constitutes a first reading of an Ordinance to authorize the conveyance by Pickens County of certain land in connection with the proposed “Teddy Bear Project.”

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman