

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting  
May 19, 2014  
6:30 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 on May 9, 2014.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman  
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman  
Jennifer H. Willis, V.C. Pro-Tem  
Jeff Martin  
Trey Whitehurst  
Randy Crenshaw

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator  
Ken Roper, County Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Smith called the meeting of May 19, 2014 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Vice Chairman Tom Ponder gave the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Junius Smith- Mr. Smith stated he had several things to say about a recent Bill introduced by Representative David Hiott. Mr. Smith stated this Bill goes against Amendment (5) of the Constitution, which states that a person will be given compensation for property. Representative Hiott has introduced a Bill that would give governments and utilities the authority to take citizens property without the citizen's knowledge. Mr. Smith urged Council and all constituents to vote out Representative Hiott and Senator Martin. Mr. Smith concluded if this Bill goes into effect, his organization will be prepared to file a lawsuit.

Kandy Kelly- Kandy Kelly, Pickens County Coroner, came before Council and thanked them for allowing her the part-time assistance in her office. Ms. Kelly stated she was respectfully asking for this position to be full time this fiscal year. This position will enable the success of the internship program, as a staff person must be in attendance for the intern program to be available. Ms. Kelly concluded by stating that if this position was full time, she would be happy to share if other departments needed assistance during periods of time the assistant was not busy.

Sheriff Rick Clark- Sheriff Clark came to Council to dispel misconceptions about building a new jail facility. Sheriff Clark stated that the jail is very important and in need of rehabilitation, however, he is not necessarily in favor of a new facility. He stated he was in favor of a study in order to begin a conversation about what does need to happen. Sheriff Clark stated the facility was a Council and community decision. As a final statement, Mr. Clark stated that he had actually allocated funds for a study, but had withdrawn that request in order to have an assessment from the Department of Justice and Bureau of Prisons. These departments do this service at no cost, and give alternative methods to solve a jail problem. Sheriff Clark stated he looked forward to working with Council on this project.

Philip Smith- Mr. Smith stated he had an incident recently where a citizen had parked in his drive-way and posted a “Davey Hiott” campaign sign at the edge of Highway 178. Mr. Smith stated he was not a supporter of Representative Hiott and demanded the sign be removed. Mr. Smith stated the authorities from the City of Liberty informed him that the sign was in the right-of-way, and could not be removed. Mr. Smith stated he was upset because he was an obvious supporter of Mr. Hiott’s opposition, Michelle Wiles. Mr. Smith concluded by stating he did not think that the county ordinance was being followed, and that political signs cannot be posted as of this date.

>council did advise that Mr. Smith lives in the City of Liberty, and County Ordinance does not supersede a municipality.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 21, 2014 and May 5, 2014:**

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of April 21 and May 5, 2014.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

Mr. Guarino gave the following report:

- 1) Hagood Mill Director- Mr. Guarino introduced Billy Crawford as the new Director of the Hagood Mill. Mr. Crawford took the position on May 13, 2014. Mr. Crawford has a B.A. in History, and is a lifelong Pickens County resident. Mr. Guarino also stated that Mr. Crawford has been a volunteer at the Hagood Mill, and has a good vision for seeing the mill progress.  
>council welcomed Mr. Crawford.
- 2) Finance- Mr. Guarino stated that he and the Economic Development Director, Ray Farley had the audit/phone interview with Fitch. It was confirmed by Fitch that Pickens County continues to have the “AA” rating for the GO bonds, series 2003.

#### **COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Smith stated that Council was entering the Summer Schedule, and the next meeting would be June 23, 2014 and there is typically no meeting in July. Chairman Smith also shared a thank you note from Meals on Wheels regarding the support for their March fundraising events.

Vice Chairman Tom Ponder stated that Dacusville had another concert at the Community Center. The Blue Grass show was well attended by citizens inside and outside of Dacusville. Mr. Ponder thanked Council again for the support of this project.

#### **MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Hearing none, Chairman Smith closed the Motion Period.

#### **REQUEST TO REVIEW AND APPLY FOR THE 2014 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) GRANT FUNDS:**

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve application for the Justice Assistance Grant.

#### **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 476 TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCES NO. 384, 410, 424, 433, 437, 438, 442, 451, 461 AND 472 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:**

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 476, amending the Oconee Park agreement.

## **SECOND READING OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015 BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 477:**

Prior to the motion of second reading, Ralph Guarino did about a twenty-five minute overview and presentation of the FY 2014/15 budget.

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of the fiscal year Budget Ordinance No. 477.

## **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 478 TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014 BUDGET ORDINANCE:**

- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 478 to amend fiscal year 2013/2014.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.
  - 2014 paving list to the Public Service Committee

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.
  - Legal updates
  - Personnel updates
  - Contractual issues
  - Boards and Commissions

## **PUBLIC SESSION BACK TO ORDER:**

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and advised the following motions.

### Boards and Commissions:

- Behavioral Health Services: Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to re-appoint Ronda McWhorter, Mary Babb, and Mac McCrary to the Behavioral Health Services. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.
- Library Board of Trustees: Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to re-appoint Dr. Bill Seel and Dennis Latham to the Library Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.

### Fire Districts:

- Shady Grove Fire District: Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to allow Shady Grove Fire District to proceed with a property purchase of approximately nine acres for use of a needed access road. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

### City of Pickens Fire District:

- Pickens Fire District: Councilman Randy Crenshaw moved to contract with the City of Pickens for an additional \$40,000 for a total of \$75,000 for all fire services until fire stations are complete.

## **ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County stood adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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G. Neil Smith, Chairman