

July 21, 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, July 16, 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

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

Welcome and Call to Order:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of July 21, 2008 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilwoman Willis was called upon to give the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for a public forum and called upon the Clerk to Council to call the citizens to the podium.

Chairman Smith stated before the public forum began that he realized many citizens were concerned with the draft of the Development Standard Ordinance (DSO) and Mr. Smith informed the citizens that Council would be having a work session with the Planning Commission in order to begin looking at issues.

1. Roy Collins. Mr. Collins came before Council and requested an addition to the agenda for this evening in order to add funds to the Family Readiness Program which provides assistance to families while their spouses are away serving in a military capacity. Mr. Collins reported to Council about the number of families in the National Guard and from Pickens County. Mr. Collins concluded by stating that the Council has given in the past and he would be appreciative of their participation.
2. Lisa Flaughter. Ms. Flaughter stated she was extremely upset regarding the draft proposal of the new DSO. Ms. Flaughter warned Council about groups who are trying to control land use and other governmental issues. Ms. Flaughter stated she was very concerned about the authorship of this ordinance and asked council to be careful when reviewing. Ms. Flaughter also stated she has completed some in-depth research about groups who are known as non-governmental organizations (NGO) and the dangers they cause via ordinances like the new DSO.

3. Junius Smith. Mr. Smith came before Council to discuss his thoughts on the DSO, but stated he would only concur with Ms. Flaucher. He informed Council that they needed to be careful of the new DSO. Mr. Smith also informed Council about a new group which is forming in Pickens County called the Conservatives of Pickens County. Mr. Smith stated this is a large group already and feels like it will be an extremely active group.
4. Weldon Clark. Mr. Clark spoke against the new DSO. He asked council to consider going back to the simpler version of Ordinance No. 173 which was in place prior to Ordinance No. 304.

Approval of Minutes:

- Jennifer Willis moved to approve the minutes of June 16, 2008 and June 23, 2008, motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

The committee of Justice and Public Safety held a meeting in the Main Conference Room on July 21, 2008. All members of the committee were in attendance. Several citizens and media were also in attendance.

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
 Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
 Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

Item	Description	Referred	Report	Action
10	Request for an ordinance and enforcement policy regarding illegal immigrants. Retained 12/31/2007 First Reading 2/4/08	09/17/07	10/15/07 02/04/08 07/21/08	No action, committee held discussions about the process of illegal immigration and how training of local law enforcement would need to tie into state and federal laws. All Committee members stated a need for sensitivity when dealing with these issues. Committee recommends a first reading and back to committee Committee recommends a second reading with amendments regarding employers using the E-Verity System. All council voted in favor, with the exception of James London who opposed. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Hurst reported on the following issues:

1. Traffic Study report that needs to be added to executive session. Mr. Hurst stated he now had the results of a traffic study for Highway 123 and he would like to present that study in executive session.
2. Temporary closing of the Oconee County Airport. Council was informed that Pickens County was picking up some traffic while Oconee County is repairing their runway.
3. Terminal building at Pickens County Airport. Terminal building permits are ready and building is underway for the terminal building.
4. Hangars at Pickens County Airport. FAA is looking at modification of the airport hangars prior to releasing the permits. Council was informed that this should only be a minor issue.
5. Accountability regarding sewer systems. Council was informed that Building Codes will now be involved in inspections of sewer lines and capacity issues when new development takes place. This will enhance the accountability of sewer capacity and ensure better communications with municipalities.
6. Public Defenders report. Mr. Hurst gave council a report from the Public Defenders Office as it relates to the funding that Council had provided for this fiscal year. Mr. Hurst stated the report outlines some of the questions that Council discussed.
7. New Employees. Mr. Hurst stated the new E-911 Coordinator was in place and her name is Tasha Todd, also the new Elections Director has been recruited and his name is Rodney Allen.

Council Correspondence:

Finance Award. Chairman Smith announced that the finance department had received an award for their excellence in financial reporting. Chairman Smith stated he was pleased with this award and thanked staff for a good job.

Plaque to Mrs. Willis for serving as Chairman of Council. Chairman Smith presented Mrs. Willis with a gavel plaque in order to recognize her for her service as Chairman during the years 2005 – 2007.

Big League World Series. Mrs. Willis announced that the Cliff's Communities had donated \$10,000.00 and associated vendors had given an additional \$9,000. Mrs. Willis stated this was the official request for the County to submit the funding that was earmarked for this event. Mrs. Willis thanked Council and all those involved for their assistance for this very worthwhile event.

Motion Period and New Business:

1. Addition to Executive Session. Jennifer Willis moved to add the traffic study to the executive session agenda. Seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.
2. Animal Control Ordinance to Committee. Randy Crenshaw moved to add to the consent agenda the issue of the animal control ordinance. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Justice and Public Safety Committee.
3. Family Readiness Funding Request to Committee. Chairman Smith asked that this issue be added to consent for going to the Administration and Finance Committee. Tom Ponder gave a second for discussion.

>>Chairman Smith stated he would like this issue to go to committee, and further stated he would act upon it expediently. Tom Ponder asked that we go forth and add it to the agenda this evening for action, and also consider this a regular line item in the budget. Jennifer Willis asked the Chair if he would consider funding a portion now and then send to committee for the purpose of discussing this as a regular line item in the budget. Chairman Smith stated that he moved to commit because he had several issues he wanted to discuss at the committee level. Also Mr. Smith stated he was trying to follow procedures regarding council's rule about requesting funding without going through the budget process.

- James London moved to place the request for Family Readiness on the agenda, and to fund it at \$1,000. The motion also included sending to committee. Motion failed for lack of a second.
- Chairman Smith called for a vote on the original motion to commit. All voted in favor with the exception of Tom Ponder who opposed. Motion carried.

Public Hearing and Second Reading of an Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 404 to change the fire district lines in Central and Six Mile:

Chairman Smith called the public hearing to order for the purpose of any discussion relating to amending Ordinance No. 404.

1. E.P. Stillwell. Mr. Stillwell stated that he was the Chairman of the Six Mile Fire District board, and he wanted to go on record as stating that the moving of district lines will decrease revenue for Six Mile Fire District by approximately \$12,000. Mr. Stillwell stated these funds would have to be made up in other areas.
2. Junius Smith. Mr. Smith asked staff to please check and make sure that these lines do not affect his property. He stated that from what he could see in the legal notice of the newspaper that his property is in the Liberty district. Mr. Smith concluded by saying he must stay in the Six Mile Fire District.
Council stated the lines should not affect Mr. Smith, but staff will check prior to third reading.
3. Sarah Rampey. Ms. Rampey spoke in favor of the Ordinance to move lines; she also stated this would save money for many citizens. Ms. Rampey also noted that all within the boundaries had signed petitions in favor.

Second Reading of an Ordinance to create a new Development Standards Ordinance:

Chairman Smith reminded everyone that this would be for a second reading and then be sent to the Planning Commission. The Council and the Planning Commission would meet on August 18, 2008 to discuss particular issues.

- Motion was made by James London, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitute a second reading of an Ordinance for a new Development Standard Ordinance. Jennifer Willis opposed, and all other members voted in favor. Motion carried.

First Reading of an ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of General Obligation Bonds not exceeding one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000) for Springs Fire District:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the first reading of an Ordinance for the GO Bonds for the Springs Fire District.

Approval of a Resolution to state reimbursement for costs associated with the construction of a fire house and acquisition of fire equipment with the proceeds of tax-exempt obligation bonds:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the resolution to state reimbursement.

Consent Agenda:

- **Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter to approve the consent agenda as amended. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**
 - *Education, Recreation, County Planning- First Reading of an Ordinance to allow the Sheriff's Office to post with the Registrar of Deeds, a property that is a known methamphetamine Laboratory*
 - *Public Service Committee – Road Paving List*
 - *Public Service Committee- Request for road shoulder improvement equipment*
 - *Public Service Committee - Bio Diesel project*
 - *as amended- Family Readiness request- Administration and Finance*
 - *as amended – Animal Control Ordinance – Justice and Public Safety*

Executive Session:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes. All members voted in favor.

Contractual Issues
Boards and Commissions
Legal Procedures Issue
Hwy. 123 study

Public Session reconvened:

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

Library Board of Directors—Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder to appoint Dennis Latham to the Easley Library Board. All voted in favor with the exception of James London who opposed. Motion carried.

Purchase of Property — Chairman Smith moved to authorize the County Administrator to purchase and execute document for the purchase of said property for the Tri County Tech project in the amount of \$1,500,400. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

Fire Boat Lease — Jennifer Willis moved to enter into a lease for 1 year in the amount of \$10.00 with the Vineyards Fire District for the use of a fire boat which was purchased by the Cliffs Communities. All insurance and liability will be the responsibility of the district. Tom Ponder abstained from the vote, all others voted in favor. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman