

September 15, 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, September 11, 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  
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 September 15, 2008 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman London was called upon for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Smith opened the floor for public forum.

1. Susan Benjamin- Ms. Benjamin, Chairperson of the Cultural Commission came before Council to present them with a resolution of support and praise for the Director of the cultural commission as well as the staff.
2. Weldon Clark. Mr. Clark came before council to speak against the revisions of the Development Standards Ordinance and to reiterate his previous views for land use planning.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve both sets of meeting minutes.

August 18, 2008- approved  
August 25, 2008 – approved

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Hurst provided council with the following updates:

1. Council saw pictures of the signs at Mile Creek and also the commerce park.
2. Council was given a report as it relates to magistrate funds.
3. Mr. Hurst updated council as it relates to the fact that the Department of Transportation will be placing weight limits on several of the State bridges. Mr. Hurst stated this would have an effect on the county's roads and bridges because large trucks would be detouring and placing more wear on the roads. Mr. Hurst also complimented the county for the fact that many of the county bridges had already been constructed to handle the large weight loads.

4. Mr. Hurst stated that Pickens County continues to have one of the best recycling programs in the State, and stated that Lou Holder was doing a great job with the education part.
5. Mr. Hurst reminded Council of two important dates- Groundbreaking at the Airport is set for Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at noon. Government Day is Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 4 -7 PM at Legacy Square.
6. Council was informed that the State would cut 3% of Local Government funds this year. This will impact Pickens County about \$250,000.
7. Council was informed that Oconee Nuclear Plant would be doing line maintenance and as a result would lower the lake approximately 7.5 feet. Water will be stored in Lake Jocassee and will be returned when the repairs are complete. These repairs will take place October – December.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Chairman Smith moved to refer to the consent agenda a committee item as it relates to vehicle assessment. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.
2. James London moved to add the resolution from the cultural commission to the agenda for approval. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.
3. Jennifer Willis moved to pull the wine tasting ordinance from committee and give a second reading. Motion was seconded by James London and unanimously passed.

**APPROVE THE FY 2008/2009 MILLAGE RATES:**

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the 2008/09 Millage rates as presented by the Finance Director.

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 406 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,800,000) FOR THE SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT:**

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 406.

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-07 TO PROCLAIM NOVEMBER 2-8, 2008 AS ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE WEEK:**

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve resolution No. 08-07.

**Additions to the agenda:**

- Ordinance to allow a winery to open to the public on Sunday.
- Jennifer Willis moved to have a second reading of an ordinance for a winery to open on Sunday; this would help the Pickens County winery make plans for their fall/winter schedule. Mrs. Willis stated she would be in favor of the ordinance going back to committee and out for third reading and public hearing as soon as possible. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
- Acceptance of the Resolution presented by the Cultural Commission:
- Motion was made by James London, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to accept the resolution as presented from the Cultural Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 304 TO REPLACE WITH THE PRIOR DEVELOPMENT STANDARD ORDINANCE AND ITS AMENDMENTS:**

Chairman Smith stated he was bringing this issue to the table because he had tried to work with the Planning Commission for the last four years as it relates to issues of changing the current DSO. Chairman Smith stated if the commission does not want to expedite the request of Council, then he would state to go back to the original Development Standards Ordinance.

...during discussions, Tom Ponder concurred that the issues regarding this ordinance had lingered entirely too long.

James London cautioned Council about allowing lower end development to begin occurring if the ordinance was not addressed properly.

Chairman Smith clarified that the issue on the floor should be a first reading to repeal Ordinance No. 304 and go back to the original Development Standards Ordinance as amended.

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder to allow the first reading of an ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 304 and go back to the original DSO. Chairman Smith, Ben Trotter, Tom Ponder, Randy Crenshaw, and Jennifer Willis voted in favor James London opposed. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

>>Refer to Administration and Finance – Request from Seniors Unlimited regarding building funds.

>>Refer to Administration and Finance – Rental Fees for the Gym in Pickens

>>Refer to Administration and Finance – Accommodation tax money

>>Refer to Administration and Finance – Long term recreation funding

>>Refer to the Public Service Committee – Request for right of way

>>Refer to the Public Service Committee – Burdine Springs issue

>>Refer to the Public Service Committee – Paving expenditures/ contract

>>>addition – Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee – Assessment of vehicles,

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

Legal issues relating to the Development Standards

Legal issues relating to the immigration laws from the State.

Legal issue relating to Warpath landing

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and allowed the following motion as a result of executive session.

- Jennifer Willis moved that the immigration ordinance be sent back to committee for further study. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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G. Neil Smith, Chairman