

June 2, 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, May 28, 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 June 2, 2008 to order. All Council members were in attendance. Councilman Trotter was recognized for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for public forum and called upon the Clerk for the names of citizens signed up to address Council.

1. John Mauldin. Mr. Mauldin, the Public defender with Greenville County stated that due to recent changes in the legislation that Pickens and Greenville would be combined and be known as the thirteenth circuit. Mr. Mauldin stated he was sworn in this April so he had not had an opportunity to make a budget request. Mr. Mauldin stated he would request that council fund an additional 45,000 in order to hire another person.

>>some discussion was held with Council, regarding case loads and the fact that cases are not being dealt with in a timely fashion. Tom Ponder stated it was also an issue of time, as the budget season is coming to an end. Mr. Mauldin apologized for the lateness of his request, but did state he thought the extra personnel would expedite the cases.

2. Tim Morgan. Tim Morgan with the Sheriff's office requested that Council consider a compensation study for all employees during the next budget year. Mr. Morgan said Council needed to have this done so that all employees could be brought in line with other counties.
3. Sam Wyche – Mr. Wyche stated he had good news regarding information from people he had recently been in contact with as it relates to the Ebenezer baseball field in Pickens County. Mr. Wyche stated that Joe Morgan and Bud Sielig were committed to fast tracking a grant for up to \$50,000. Mr. Wyche thanked Ben

Trotter for getting this process started with the \$20,000 he had funded from recreation funds.

4. Weldon Clark. Mr. Clark stated he wanted to comment about the surplus funds that were mentioned during the last council meeting. Mr. Clark gave an example of why budgets need surplus and stated if one of the Pickens County water plants stopped, the county would need anywhere from one to ten million dollars in order to upstart one plant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis to approve the minutes of May 19, 2008.
- Ben Trotter moved to amend the minutes of May 19, 2008 for clarification that his amendment on page (2) of said minutes, needed to say for the “purchase” of a building for Seniors Unlimited.
- Council unanimously approved the minutes as amended.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Finance. Chairman Smith gave the following report. The Administration and Finance Committee met in the Main Conference Room on May 29th, 2008 at 6:00 PM with all committee members in attendance and Chairman Smith presiding.

Other members of Council:
Randy Crenshaw

Staff:
Chap Hurst, County Administrator
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
Olivia Vasse, Special Projects Coordinator
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Dale Powell, Recreation Director

Members of the Accommodations Tax Committee

Item	Description	Referred	Action
46	Implementation of tax notices Retained 12/31/2007	06/18/07	>Committee moved to remove from the log. Approved
53	Request for \$25.00 fee for Abandoned Manufactured Home Removal Act Retained 12/31/2007	08/06/07	>Committee moved to remove from the log. Approved

55	Procedures for recognition of employees Retained 12/31/2007	08/06/07	>Committee will recognize retirees at the first council meeting of the month with a plaque, and then again at the Christmas dinner. Approved
56	Appreciation Dinner for Boards and Commissions. Retained 12/31/2007	09/17/07	>staff will coordinate log items 56 and 57 and report back to committee.
57	Ethics for County Employees/Boards and Commissions Retained 12/31/2007	09/17/07	>staff will coordinate log items 56 and 57 and report back to committee.
60	Policy for old cemetery maintenance	1/22/08	>staff will do an assessment and report back to committee. Approved
61	Airplane Tax in Pickens County	02/04/08	>Committee recommends Airplane Property tax going to 4%. Approved
62	Accommodations tax committee recommendations	04/21/08	>Committee recommends the distribution of funds as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Committee. Approved

PUBLIC SERVICE. COMMITTEE Chairman Tom Ponder gave the following report.

The Committee met in the Main Conference Room on May 29, 2008. All members were in attendance and Committee Chairman Tom Ponder presided.

Staff:

Chap Hurst, County Administrator
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

1. **Request regarding Joy Drive:** Committee recommends that Joy Drive be in the County Road System as it has been worked on by the County in the past.
>>Council unanimously approved.

2. Approval of 2008/09 Paving List and view current road issues.

Committee approved the 2008 paving list and amended the current 2007/08 paving list to include Old Pond Road and Ridge Springs Road, and now to include the above road of Joy Drive.

>>Council unanimously approved.

*Also Council discussed the importance of doing shoulder work on roads when the paving takes place.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst gave the following report:

1. Grant for Pandemic Flu for a Standard Operating Procedure. Mr. Hurst stated that this grant would coordinate multi media campaigns as it relates to the possibility of flu or like epidemic for our county. Mr. Hurst stated that Lynn Fisher and Don Evett would be working with DHEC.
2. June 27th would be a dedication for the Powdersville Water district for a sub - division that needed this line. Mr. Hurst stated the dedication would be at 3:00 PM. at Shady Acres.
3. Mr. Hurst informed Council of upcoming 4-H camps in which children would learn about the rivers and streams. These camps are being held on June 16 and 18 for ages 8 –12.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Tom Ponder stated he had recently attended the Crosswell Fire District ground breaking and the Dacusville Recreation Dedication ceremony in memory of Luke Cisson. Councilman Ponder stated he appreciated all that staff and Council had supported for these efforts. He stated he was proud to be a part of both events.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for any new business.

1. Jennifer Willis moved to add to the agenda a request for one time funding for the Big League World Series. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
2. Chairman Smith moved to add to the executive session an economic development update. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

Chairman Smith stated these items would be added.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO.403 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING TWO HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$210,000) PICKENS COUNTY, SC, GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND SERIES 2008; TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO. (VINEYARDS FIRE DISTRICT)

Chairman Smith opened the floor for the public hearing of Ordinance No. 403.

No citizens requested to speak and the floor was closed.

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading for Ordinance No. 403.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 404 TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIFORM ORDINANCE FOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS, AMENDING AND RESTATING THE PREVIOUSLY ENACTED ORDINANCES CREATING THE DISTRICTS (AND THEREBY REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 386 AND ORDINANCE NUMBER 393), TO PROVIDE FOR CONTINUED FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES IN THE COUNTY; TO ESTABLISH STANDARD OPERATING RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR FIRE DISTRICTS; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF BYLAWS FOR SAID DISTRICTS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for the public hearing of Ordinance No. 404.

1. Weldon Clark asked for a copy of the Ordinance.

With no further citizens requesting to speak, the floor was closed.

- Motion was made by James London, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of ordinance No. 404.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 401 FOR THE PURPOSE OF A FY 2007/2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder and seconded by Ben Trotter that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 401.
- Ben Trotter moved to amend the budget amendment to include \$100,000 for the grading work at Saint Jude. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.
- Ordinance 401 as amended passed with a unanimous vote.

REQUEST FOR ONE TIME FUNDING FOR THE BIG LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Councilwoman Willis stated this issue is on the agenda because the State cut this program out of the budget (\$50,000) with no time for Easley or Pickens County to respond.

- Jennifer Willis moved for a one time funding of \$20,000 contingent upon Easley being able to obtain the same in matching funds. Mrs. Willis said she preferred these funds coming from other entities other than the City of Easley because they already funded so much for this event. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder.

During discussions, Council added that this was a huge event and the State should have given more time. Mr. Ponder amended the motion to state \$25,000 and to place the same contingents, and to allow a 60 day timeframe. Mrs. Willis accepted the amendment.

- All members voted in favor of the motion as amended to allow \$25,000 contingent on the match for a 60 day time period.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.
Boards and commission – BHSPC
Contractual Issue

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

- Boards and Commission: Jennifer Willis moved to reappoint Gary Fraley, Mary Babb and Mac McCrary to the Behavioral Health Services. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

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 7:31 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman