

April 5, 2010  
Regular Council Meeting  
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media, March 31, 2010.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman  
Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman  
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore  
Tom Ponder  
Randy Crenshaw  
Sam Wyche

Clerk to Council: Donna Owen

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator  
Ken Roper, County Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Smith called the meeting of April 5, 2010 to order, and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Crenshaw was recognized for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Smith requested the Clerk to Council to introduce citizens for the purpose of public forum.

1. Patsy Smith- Mrs. Smith stated she was coming before Council to request that funding be restored to the Soil and Water Conservation Board in Pickens County. Ms. Smith informed Council about the many dams, creeks, streams, and rivers that is the responsibility of one employee within their organization. Mrs. Smith also stated the soil and water office was local and the funding stays within Pickens County.
2. Junius Smith, Paulette Murphree, and Lisa Flaughter, - While all these citizens spoke to Council separately, they each conveyed opposition about documents as it relates to the United Nations and Agenda 21. Council was informed that the current Comprehensive Plan was established under the influence of the U.N. and Agenda 21 concept. Council was asked to look into the land use plans, as well as organizations like Upstate Forever. In addition, the group asks council to look at the organizations that are pushing the "agenda" by means of sustainable government. Mr. Junius Smith pointed out the group of conservatives as well as the Tea Party movement was growing in numbers because of this issue.
3. Bobby Ballentine-requested that Council look at some sample ordinances that have been adopted in other counties and cities as it relates to historic building preservation. Mr. Ballentine stated the law allows special tax incentives for the restoring of buildings. In addition, the guidelines are very specific, and good for the community and tourism.
4. Judy and Mark Beffart, Robert Williams, and Robert Zale- Came before Council to voice their opposition to a RV park that was approved for a location on Scenic Highway 11. The citizens stated it was not the appropriate place, and it was a safety hazard for traffic. In addition, the citizens asked council for a better way of advertising and allowing public

input before things like this were approved. The citizens were very displeased with the Planning Commission and stated one member of the commission should not have voted due to her vested interest.

5. Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark stated that he would like Council to keep a close eye on the budget process, and stated this is not the time to fund positions and plans such as tourism. Mr. Clark stated many things can happen with tourism without spending a lot of money on staff.
6. Bob and Barbara Fondry- Mr. Fondry and his Mother came to council to appeal a tax bill in which the property value had gone up. Mr. Fondry asked Council about the process and how a value could go up, when values were down. (Administrator will look into this issue and correspond with Mrs. Fondry)

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 15, 2010**

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London to approve the March 15, 2010 minutes. Motion carried with all members voting in favor, with the exception of Sam Wyche and Tom Ponder due to their absence.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

1. Recycling – Mr. Hurst introduced Recycling Coordinator Ms. Lou Holder for an award. Ms. Holder stated that each year the State of South Carolina awards programs to counties with the best practices in Recycling. Pickens County always does an outstanding job and brings home awards. Ms. Holder also stated the county likes to choose a person who is a recycling attendant and give the award back to them because that is the real success of the program. Lou Holder stated many nice things about the recycling attendants, and further presented the award to Mr. Garcie Scruggs, whom was described as someone who works too much, and loves the public.
2. Road Closing -- South Highway 298- Mr. Hurst stated DOT had issued an order and detour signs would be in place through August.
3. Property Reassessment- Mr. Hurst stated it was state law and reassessment is something that every county deals with, however, Mr. Hurst stated a neighboring county had spent over \$1.8 million to do their reassessment, while Pickens County had completed the reassessment spending approximately \$24,000. Mr. Hurst stated Pickens County is very efficient, and always does a good job with funding.
4. Bicyclist- Mr. Hurst informed Council that a recent cyclist group from Canada had come through Pickens County and was utilizing the local fire departments to stop for rest and maintenance of their bikes. The department personnel and the cyclist are enjoying themselves. Mr. Hurst stated it was a good utilization of public service.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### 1) Committee of the Whole:

Chairman Smith gave the Committee of the Whole report, with no action and explained the tourism committee has submitted a plan for discussion during the budget cycle.

#### **Council Correspondence:**

Budget work sessions – dates- Council has set up April 20<sup>th</sup>, April 22, April 27<sup>th</sup>, and April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Municipal meeting – dates—Chairman Smith asked council to let the Clerk know when they wanted to meet with the municipal association. The mayors would like a unanimous attendance.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Hearing no request, Chairman Smith closed the motion period.

**PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF THE FY 2010/2011 BUDGET:**

Chairman Smith allowed Mr. Hurst to Present the budget for FY 2011. Mr. Hurst gave a brief overview by stating he did not give council a budget with a tax increase, and further stated this was a balanced budget. However, some positions will not be filled and others are cut. Mr. Hurst stated this is due to economic issues such as permit revenue and fines. Mr. Hurst also reminded Council that State Aid is being cut. However, during work sessions Mr. Hurst stated he was prepared to explain the process, but a balanced budget, with no tax increase was further recognition how Pickens County is frugal with tax monies.

Chairman Smith called for a first reading:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Sam Wyche that this constitute a first reading of the 2010/2011 budget ordinance. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- Tom Ponder moved to go into executive session for the stated purposes, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

*Contractual issue (2)  
Boards- Behavioral health*

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

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

- 1) Contractual Issue- Jennifer Willis moved to authorize the administrator to negotiate the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the JS Project.
- 2) Boards and Commissions- Chairman Smith moved to place Scott Dover on the Behavioral Health Board. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

Chairman Smith stated no other action on the other contractual issue.

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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G. Neil Smith, Chairman  
Pickens County Council