

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
August 17, 2015
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Jennifer H. Willis presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media on August 08, 2015.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman
Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman
G. Neil Smith
Randy Crenshaw
Ensley Feemster

Absent: Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Willis called the meeting of August 17, 2015 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Neil Smith further led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Willis requested the Clerk to Council to call upon citizens who signed up to speak.

Billy Grant -Mr. Grant, Chairman of the Easley Rural Fire District gave Council a (2) page hand-out explaining why the Council should be cautious about ending the contract with the City of Easley for fire service. Mr. Grant said the District Board has no complaints for the service provided by the City of Easley. The response times are good, and the ISO rating is excellent. Mr. Grant stated if there is a master plan that is better and more economical; the Board of Directors would like to be involved so they can answer questions for the many citizens that are concerned about these issues.

Pree Hamilton -Ms. Hamilton, President of the Humane Society thanked several people for the success of their first golf tournament. Ms. Hamilton stated the tournament accumulated over \$5,000. Ms. Hamilton stated there are always basic needs such as computers for the staff. However, she wanted to again thank Council and the County Staff for all they do for the Humane Society.

Junius Smith -Mr. Smith spoke about government relationships such as County Law Enforcement, SLED, and the Solicitor. Mr. Smith stated he thought the County Law Enforcement should be able to decide what should or should not be investigated, and did not think the Solicitor should be able to determine those issues. Also, Judges are ruling on issues and stating their basis for the ruling is stipulated by "case law," Mr. Smith stated it is not correct that a Judge can rule on these issues.

Rick Spencer -Mr. Spencer stated he had previously spoken to Council regarding the water district's ability to charge new owners for fees that were the previous owner's responsibility. Mr. Spencer stated the Six Mile District has lowered their fees to a maximum of \$250.00 instead of the \$1500.00 that was in

place at one time. Mr. Spencer said that Dacusville is still charging a monthly/minimum fees that are expensive. Mr. Spencer would like to see laws change in this regard.

Eleanor Hare –Ms. Hare stated that at the previous Council meeting the public was informed that the Voter Registration Department budget was increased 37.5%. Ms. Hare stated that her research states that State funding increased their budget by \$240,000 or 236%. This increase is to compensate the County for elections. Ms. Hare stated the issue was the fact that the Voter Registration Department asked for the extra funding to use for staff during the upcoming elections. This funding was denied, thereby decreasing the budget. Ms. Hare pointed out the many elections the County was facing, and the importance of having staff in place who understood the whole process.

Bill Johnston –Mr. Johnston stated the petroglyph art at the Hagood Mill needed to be open to the public. Mr. Johnston stated the petroglyph area has been ready since 2011, and he thinks there is adequate staff for this exhibit to be open for public viewing. Mr. Johnston stated he would like to see this exhibit open, and to also have more clarity of several issues regarding the Hagood Mill as a whole, including building projects, and management changes.

Weldon Clark-Mr. Clark gave Council a handout on sound/noise regarding shooting ranges. Mr. Clark stated many of these findings are helpful for the development of Pickens County's ordinance as it relates to shooting ranges.

-On another topic, Mr. Clark stated the State has cut funding over \$9 Million from Pickens County. Many citizens do not recognize the whole picture of what this type of shortfall does to all of the County services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and seconded by Councilman Neil Smith to approve the minutes of June 15, 2015 and June 29, 2015. Motion was accepted unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Guarino updated Council on the following:

Magistrate Building-Mr. Guarino stated the magistrates office building is nearing completion with furniture arriving next week. Mr. Guarino stated the other offices are coordinating their closing and the reopening in the new facility beginning September 8, 2015. Mr. Guarino gave thanks to all staff for working together and making this a success. Mr. Barry Chappell was mentioned as being very beneficial to the success of this project.

Mr. Guarino stated plans are being talked about for a grand opening in October.

-Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst requested some discussion during the Administrators report on the following:

Voter Registration and Elections – Mr. Whitehurst asked Mr. Guarino about what Ms. Hare stated about the increase in State funding for elections. Mr. Guarino stated the State reimburses the County for certain aspects of the elections. Mr. Whitehurst pointed out that some of the elections that Ms. Hare was referring to would not transpire until the next fiscal year. Mr. Guarino concurred and stated adjustments are made every year based on the election process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1) Committee of the Whole June 29, 2015-Ms. Willis gave the following report

Chairman, Jennifer Willis

Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst
 Councilman Neil Smith
 Councilman Tom Ponder
 Councilman Randy Crenshaw
 Councilman Ensley Feemster

The Committee met in the Main Conference Room Monday June 29, 2015 immediately following the 6:30 p.m. special called Council Meeting. The Committee met in the Main Conference Room with all Council Members in attendance, and Chairman Willis Presiding.

Staff:
 Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator
 Jimmy Threat, GIS Mapping
 Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Description		Referred	Report
25	County Buildings/space and master plan- Retained 2015	09/15/2014	No Committee action, staff will look at issues such as contracts and deeds as it relates to certain properties.
27	Legal System Overview Committee	03/02/2015	<p>No Committee action, Mr. Ponder wanted to clarify that he could begin meeting with a core group (as previously discussed) to discuss issues relating to the jail study.</p> <p>Mr. Ponder will call these meetings in the manner of an advisory board, and report items back to the Committee of the Whole.</p> <p>>Council approved 08/17/2015</p> <p>Previous action: <i>Sheriff, Probation and Parole Director, Behavioral Health Director, and Tom Ponder as Council to begin a core group to start the process as part of the legal system overview and needs.</i></p> <p>>Council amended the recommendation to clarify this core group will study the initial study (from the 2 day seminar) and this group will add additional needed stakeholders and report back to the Committee of the Whole.</p>
29	Fire District Review First reading 08/17/2015	04/06/2015	<p>Committee is making the fire district lines a first priority- >>Committee recommends a first reading of an ordinance to amend the uniform fire district ordinance to revisit boundary lines in general, with an emphasis in areas that are outside a 5 mile radius of one district, but are within a 5 mile radius in a neighboring district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will look at allowance for general tax revenue rules

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue gains and losses as lines are redrawn • Fees and ISO ratings within districts • Review where stations need to be placed for maximum efficiency/Insurance rates for homeowners <p>>>Council approved</p> <p>(During other fire discussion --new Road at Shady Grove will be named - Ford Connector)</p>
31	RFQ- Engineering and Architects	05/06/2015	<p><u>Engineering Services:</u></p> <p>>Committee recommends Staff to negotiate contract with Davis and Floyd for Alliance Pickens</p> <p>>council approved</p>
32	Communication and Public Relations	05/06/2015	<p>>Committee recommends the budgeted position to report to the Administrator, and have the title and job description of Special Projects Coordinator.</p> <p>>council approved</p>

Administration and Finance, August 12, 2015 – Chairman Willis gave the following report:

Jennifer Willis, Chairman
Neil Smith
Trey Whitehurst

The Committee of Administration and Finance met on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. Main Conference Room, Pickens County Administration Facility.
All members of the Committee were in attendance with Chairman Willis presiding. Councilman Randy Crenshaw was also in attendance.

Staff:
Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Tami Hall, Human Resource Director
Helen Hockwalt, Tourism Director
Dale Powell, Park Director

Item	Description	Referred	Report	Action
43	Salary Review Retained 2015	06/23/2014		No action, staff will obtain information about some of the questions relating to minimums in various departments. Also Staff will bring back a more condensed report and make recommendations.
64	Accommodations Tax recommendations	05/04/2015	08/17/2015	The Committee approved the Accommodations tax report as submitted. The Committee took an additional \$1,600 that was not in the original designated funds and placed that amount into the Easley Area

				<p>Museum. Bringing designated funding to \$36,600</p> <p>>Councilman Neil Smith amended the motion to take \$18,000 from the 30% fund and move it to Southern Wesleyan University. Mr. Smith informed Staff to comply with the rules to expend these funds as stated for marketing uses. Amendment was seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.</p> <p>>>Council approved as amended.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) Council Member from Ireland. Ms. Willis displayed the plaque that was a gift to Pickens County from Mr. Harry Harvey who is a Councilmember in the Newry Down District of Ireland. He has been visiting Pickens County for the past two-weeks, and he wanted to give the Council a token from his district in Ireland.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for any new motions.

- 1) Councilman Randy Crenshaw moved to pull from the Administration and Finance Committee the naming of the Petroglyphs site at Hagood Mill. Motion was seconded by Ensley Feemster and unanimously passed.

Hearing no further items for Motion Period, Chairman Willis closed the floor.

PETROGLYPHS AREA AT HAGOOD MILL:

- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw to open the facility for the Petroglyphs Area at the Hagood Mill. Mr. Crenshaw thought this should open by the third Saturday in October. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. As discussion ensued, Mr. Whitehurst stated he would further state the site should be open as soon as possible. Councilman Neil Smith further added to agree with staff’s recommendation to name the site Hagood Creek Petroglyphs Site of South Carolina. Both Mr. Crenshaw and Mr. Feemster agreed with the added statements to the motion. All Members of Council voted in favor of the opening and naming the Petroglyphs area at the Hagood Mill.
- Chairman Willis requested the subject remain in the Committee in case further discussion needs to take place as staff is moving forward with promotions and marketing. Councilman Randy Crenshaw seconded the amendment and all members voted in favor.
- Motion was unanimously passed as amended.

REQUEST TO REVIEW AND APPLY FOR THE 2015 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) GRANT FUNDS:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed to approve application for the JAG grant.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CITY OF CLEMSON INTO THE PICKENS COUNTY STORMWATER PROGRAM AS IT RELATES TO PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the City of Clemson's request for Stormwater public education and public involvement.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 494 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SEC. 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for the Public Hearing as it relates to Ordinance No. 494. The Public Hearing was closed with no comments.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed that this constitutes second reading of Ordinance No. 494.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 492 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 297 AS IT RELATES TO THE DEFINITION OF JUNKYARDS:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for the Public Hearing as it relates to Ordinance No. 492. The Public Hearing was closed with no comments.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 492.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 493 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 415 AS IT RELATES TO THE DEFINITION OF JUNKYARDS:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for the Public Hearing as it relates to Ordinance No. 493. The Public Hearing was closed with no comments.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 493.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE 491 TO CONVEY PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE OLD LIBERTY GYM AND PRACTICE FIELD TO THE CITY OF LIBERTY:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 491.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Prior to the question being called, Mr. Feemster stated he would be recusing himself from the vote. Chairman Willis asked that another member of Council make the second. Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst gave the second and motion carried with all voting in the affirmative. *Mr. Feemster did not participate in the vote citing he receives his retirement funds from the Tri-County Technical Institute.*

Committee of the Whole- Tri-County Technical College Building
Committee of the Whole- Request to accept a donation of land on Highway 11
for a sub-station (Pumpkintown Fire).

Committee of the Whole- Encroachment Permits/Utilities.

Administration and Finance- Request from the City of Liberty to utilize the old magistrates building for city court.

Administration and Finance- Business Plan for Public Service Commission.

Administration and Finance- Consultant for the jail study.

Public Service Committee- Paving List

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Willis called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Willis further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Legal Issues-Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

Update from attorney regarding SLED

Contractual Issues- Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

Liberty TIF Update

Acquisition of Property

Personnel-30-4-70 (a) (1)

Administrator Candidates

Reclassification of position in Economic Development

Economic Development-30-4-70 (a) (5)

Fee Agreement

Boards and Commissions - 30-4-70 (a) (1)

Easley Central Water

- Motion to convene into executive session for the stated purposes was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and unanimously passed.

Note: *Ms. Willis did convey to the public that Councilman Tom Ponder was recuperating from heart surgery. She reported that he is doing well and to please keep him and his family in their thoughts and prayers.*

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Willis called the meeting back to order and advised all matters of executive session were discussed as noted with forthcoming motions on the following.

- 1) Acquisition of property- Councilman Neil Smith moved to authorize the Administrator and the Chairman or designee to execute closing documents for the purchase of property for Project Blue-Way. Chairman Willis gave the second and all members voted to approve.
- 2) Easley Water District- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to re-appoint Frank Cantrell to the Easley Water District.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Willis called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman