

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
December 15, 2014
6:30 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 on December 8, 2014.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, V.C. Pro-Tem
Jeff Martin
Trey Whitehurst
Randy Crenshaw

Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Matthew Delk, County Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of December 15, 2014 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith further called upon Randy Crenshaw to lead the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to introduce the speakers who have signed up.

- 1) Pree Hamilton – Ms. Hamilton came to Council to state that she has been appointed as the President of the Pickens County Humane Society. Ms. Hamilton stated that since she has been speaking to Council about the Humane Society they have had several television spots and newspaper articles, which has increased their donation campaign. They are continuing to raise money, and are experiencing problems with being too busy for their current phone and computer systems. Also, some donations of food have been turned down due to storage.

Ms. Hamilton concluded by stating she would continue to visit the municipalities and other organizations. She also asked everyone to think before they purchase puppies and kittens as Christmas gifts.

- 2) Derrick Popham- Mr. Popham came before Council and introduced himself as a member of a non-profit group, Upstate Warriors Solutions. Mr. Popham explained he was a veteran, and he is helping in several counties to make sure those men and women returning from military service are getting the benefits and/or assistance they need. Mr. Popham stated many veterans are not signing up with the Veteran Affairs offices, and their organization is trying to assist. Mr. Popham also noted that it is sometimes difficult to transition back to civilian life, and Upstate Warriors helps with those issues as well.
- 3) David Holcombe – Mr. Holcombe came to Council with signatures from constituents in the Eastatoe valley area that wants to be moved into the Vineyard Fire District. Mr. Holcombe stated

there are (7) individuals that will not sign the petition because they have a good insurance rate. Others are uncomfortable with a tax increase.

- 4) Junius Smith –Mr. Smith stated he wanted to come to Council this evening because he read in the newspaper that Mayor Larry Bagwell of Easley was quoted as stating he had “hope” for the continuance of the Doodle Trail. Mr. Smith reminded Council that (this Council) has stated they were not going to assist with funding on this trail. Also, Mr. Smith stated he thought the property owners on the Doodle Trail should get all their money back from paying taxes, and not just a portion. Mr. Smith stated the City of Easley has overcharged its citizens, and should pay them back as well.
In conclusion, Mr. Smith called attention to an article in a newspaper regarding roads having bike-lanes. Mr. Smith stated he was completely against this, and would appreciate if the Council amended the current ordinance to present this from happening.
- 5) Sheriff Clark-Sheriff Clark thanked Emergency Management in the endeavor to work with the Sheriff’s office as they utilize a grant to have better communication back to the tower at Glassy Mountain. Sheriff Clark stated this was a real benefit for all public safety.
Also, Sheriff Clark thanked Council and Staff for their participation with the jail and justice assessment that was provided by the National Department of Corrections. Sheriff Clark stated the (2) day seminar was beneficial and created a dialogue that was needed. Mr. Clark informed Council they have the 100 page document, and he looked forward to more discussions.
- 6) David Lane - Mr. Lane, President of the Clemson Chamber invited Council to the Chamber Coalition reception. This will be January 7, 2015 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Mr. Lane stated this will be an opportunity for the Chamber Coalition to honor the elected officials.
- 7) Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark gave council a handout regarding the jail capacity and the proposal of creating a Criminal Justice Committee. Mr. Clark stated the Tax Payers Association believes this is a productive process. Mr. Clark also emphasized that it should be the responsibility of the Legislative Delegation to provide funding for the prosecutor and public defenders offices.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014 as presented.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Delk informed Council and the public of the following issues.

- 1) Crosswell Fire District will be applying for the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant for 2015. This is a 95% grant and the department has the \$2,149.00 to cover the 5% match.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare and County Planning** – Committee Chairman Whitehurst gave the following report:

Committee:

Trey Whitehurst, Chairman

Jeff Martin

Tom Ponder

The Committee of Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and Planning met in the Main Conference Room on November 21, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. All committee members were present and Committee Chairman Whitehurst presided.

Staff:

Matthew Delk, County Administrator
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Helen Hockwalt, Tourism Director
Gerald Wilson, Public Works Director

Guest:

Mayor Roy Stoddard

Agenda Log No. 8:

Planning for the Pickens County Medal of Honor Recipients:

Committee Action:

- Committee recommends a budget not to exceed \$75,000, and for those funds to come from the contingency. Council unanimously approved.
- Committee recommends for staff to prepare the request for proposals (RFP) for the videos. When the proposals come in, the committee recommends a “sub-committee” of Tom Ponder, Helen Hockwalt, and Roy Stoddard to review the proposals. The sub-committee will bring the finalist back to the Committee for selection. This motion includes authorizing the Committee to contract with the successful proposal. Council unanimously approved.

>>Staff will try to coordinate for Memorial Day 2015- in the event there is conflict with this date, staff will come back to the committee with recommendation.

2. Administration and Finance : Chairman Smith gave the following report

Committee:

Neil Smith, Chairman
Trey Whitehurst
Jennifer Willis

The Administration and Finance Committee met on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Conference Room. All Committee members were in attendance with Chairman Smith presiding.

Staff:

Matthew Delk, Administrator
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Helen Hockwalt, Tourism Director

Item	Description	Action	
3	Security policy		No action, committee request to retain for 2015
	Retained 12/2009		

	Retained 12/2010 Retained 12/05/2011 Retained 2012 Retained 2013 Retained 2014			
27	Landfill issues/recycling/cost/alternate methods Retained 12/2010 Retained 12/05/2011 Retained 2012 Retained 2013 Retained 2014			No action, committee request to retain for 2015
32	Letter of Support YMCA – USDA loan Retained 2012 Retained 2013			No action. item deleted
34	E-Waste Contract Retained 2012			No action –item deleted
35	City of Easley –Incubator building Retained 2012 Retained 2013			No action – item deleted
36	Sale of school property Retained 2013			No action –item deleted
39	Parking at the courthouse (Alexander property) Retained 2013			No action – item deleted
40	Gift of property (Rocky Bottom Area)			Staff will gather information about the property and bring back to committee. Retain for 2015
43	Salary Review			Staff will bring information back to committee. Retain for 2015
44	Fire fees on vacant property			Staff is directed to put together a committee of the (5) paid fire chiefs Billy Gibson, Phil Black, Michael Barrett, Scott Smith, and Lee McJunkin. This committee will create a uniform fee for property. This will be retained and be part of the FY 2015 budget process. Council Approved
45	Ethics Policy			No action, committee request to retain for 2015
46	Request from the Library regarding a bus stop			Committee recommends approval of the bus stop. County personnel will be in charge of the pad and placement of the shelter. The expense of the shelter is not the responsibility of the County. Committee does not want garbage cans or ashtrays at the site. Council Approved
47	Portrait for Judge Welmaker at the courthouse			Committee recommends the request for funds to be expended for the portrait of Judge Welmaker. Council Approved
49	Pickens County Jail Facility Evaluation			No Action, request to retain for 2015
50	Building Plaques on County property			Committee recommends amending the council rules to include that plaques on county projects will include members of council/and or appointed board members who voted on the project. However, due to periodic special

			<p>circumstances, staff will always send a proof of the plaque out to full council prior to final casting.</p> <p>Committee authorizes staff to expend the funds to correct the plaque at the airport.</p> <p>Council approved</p>
51	Pickens County 150 years Celebration		No action, committee request to retain for 2015
52	Memorandum of Understanding-DNR/Sassafras Mountain		No action, committee does not intend to expand on State projects.
53	Southern Wesleyan University Funding Request		No action, committee request to retain for 2015
54	First reading to amend ordinance 467 as it relates to rehabilitated historic property		<p>Committee recommends second reading of ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 467.</p> <p>(see ordinance) council approved.</p>

COMMITTEE YEAR END LOGS:

(All items will be deleted at the end of the calendar year unless such item is retained by the unanimous consent of the Council.)

1. **Committee of the Whole:** Chairman Smith moved to retain all Committee of the whole items. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

December 2014

Item	Description	Referred	Report	Action
15	<p>(former information regarding Pickens Gym)</p> <p>Pickens County Recreation facilities.</p>		08/19/2013	<p>>>Committee recommends that effective with council action within the next 60 days, a policy will be in place that states all properties purchased with a deed will have full council approval and will come from capital funds and not recreation funds. There are (3) transactions as of this date that will be reimbursed to those recreation districts-1) Old Pickens Gym, 2) Dacusville School, 3) Liberty Middle School. Moving forward, Council will review all purchase transactions prior to them taking place, and those transactions will need council approval. Policy will also state that while all capital projects involving a deed will have council approval, that other recreational request will have courtesy approval but not a requirement.</p> <p>>>Committee moved that the recreation fund be renamed to the Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality fund to be disbursed by individual council members subject to the collective wisdom of the entire council; and reports will be submitted on a quarterly basis. This does not include capital purchases</p>

16	Ordinance regarding EMS franchise issues Retained 2012 Retained 2013 Retained: 2014	01/09/2012	02/06/2012 04/01/2013 05/06/2013	>Committee recommends staff to address issues of fees, penalties, administration and exemptions. The ordinance will remain in committee for further clarification. Committee recommends first reading of the franchise ordinance. 04/01/2013 Council had second reading on May 6, 2013 and placed the Ord. back in the committee prior to third reading.
18	SC Equine Board to present an economic development study Retained 2012 Retained 2013 Retained: 2014	09/10/2012		
20	Recreational property (Doodle Railway) relating to noise/nuisance ordinances Retained 2013 Retained: 2014	10/13/2013		
22	Facility Rental Policy Retained: 2014	2/10/2014		
23	Ordinance No. 479 to repeal ordinances 264 284 and 380 as they relate to conducting municipal elections Ord received: 3/17 first 06/23 second (to COW) Retained: 2014	06/23/2014		
24	Aeronautics Commission Request Retained: 2014	08/18/2014	10/20/2014	_on Sept. 22 council went into executive session, directed staff about phase I, and recommitted the plan back to committee.
25	County Buildings/space and master plan- Retained: 2014	09/15/2014		

2. **Education Recreation Health Welfare and County Planning:** Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to retain items (7) and (8). Motion was seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

Item	Description	Referred	Report	Previous Action
------	-------------	----------	--------	-----------------

5	Hagood Mill site plan Retained 2012 Retained 2013	02/06/2012		
6	Upstate air quality pledge/resolution of support Retained 2013	01/22/2013		Item deleted
7	Lake Hartwell regarding rules and regulation as it pertains to lake management and understanding the Corps of Engineers. Retained 2013 Retained 2014	01/22/2013		Item deleted
8	Pickens County Medal of Honor recipients. Retained 2013 Retained 2014	05/06/2013	07/24/2014	<p>-William Alexander McWhorter- Liberty Magistrates Building -Furman Leon Smith-Six Mile Fire Station -Charles Hayward Barker –Concord Fire Station -James Donnie Howe-Liberty Fire Station 2</p> <p>The planning Commission has approved the recommendation from Council as presented.</p> <p>A second meeting (not a committee meeting) was held with Helen Hockwalt, Tourism Director, at the Six Mile Town Hall. This meeting was to look at the monument at the Six Mile Town Hall that has been erected for the Medal of Honor recipients. Staff discussed flagpole size, structure of the monument, and materials.</p> <p>Ralph Guarino will move forward with funds to place wiring, and other infrastructure at all the above stated buildings during the construction phase. (council concurred with allowing Administrative use of funds up to \$5,000)</p> <p>The next meeting will have budget estimates, and a program committee will be planning the dedication of these monuments for the spring of 2015.</p>

3. **Public Service Committee:** Vice Chairman Tom Ponder moved to retain the entire log. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.

Log	Description	Referred	Report Out	Action
20	Wastewater impact fee ord. Retained 2012 Retained 2013 Retained 2014	08/20/2012	09/15/2014	Committee recommends for staff to update the ordinance and provide a memorandum back to the Administrator as it relates to providing services.
21	Events/Permitting re. public roads Retained 2013 Retained 2014	05/06/2013	09/15/2014	>>Council recommends that staff write an Ordinance as it relates to permits for use of County Roads. This should include input from the Planning Director and the Sheriff. Items in the ordinance should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee/no fee • Types of events (Christmas Parade, Festivals, other) • Sponsors of the event • Liability insurance certificate for the event • Penalty for non-compliance • Maps, and road closures This ordinance will come back to the committee
22	Request for the Relocation of Alexander Road & Crowe Creek Parking lot. Retained 2014	03/17/2014	09/15/2014	>Committee Chairman Vice Chairman Tom Ponder stated many things had come up during this, and he recommends it stays in committee.

4. **Justice and Public Service Committee:** Councilman Randy Crenshaw moved to retain log items (4) and (5). Motion was seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

Item	Description	Referred	Report	Action
1	Proposed Ordinance regarding pawnbrokers: Retained 2012 Retained 2013 Deleted	06/18/2012	01/13/2014	>Committee Recommends first reading of an ordinance as it relates to pawnbrokers Retain in committee- >Council approved
2	Proposed Ordinance regarding scrap metal recyclers: Retained 2012 Retained 2013 Deleted	06/18/2012	01/13/2014	>Committee recommends first reading of an ordinance as it relates to scrap metal recyclers. >Committee also recommends the ordinance be retained in committee to give Sheriff Clark an opportunity to discuss the enforcement of the ordinance with businesses. >retain

3	Gather information regarding Abandoned mills, and to study safety hazards and fire issues Retained in this committee only 2012 Retained 2013 Deleted	10/01/2012 --	01/13/2014	No action, staff has created a listing with all pertinent information.
4	Council rules update and ethics Retained 2013 Retained 2014	01/22/2013	01/13/2014	No Action
5	Review of the animal control Ordinance Retained 2013 Retained 2014	08/19/2013	01/13/2014	>Committee recommends first reading of an amendment to Ordinance No. 317 Section 1, Section 8- (a) (b) & (c) – >Committee recommends meeting again in January for feedback on proposed changes. >Council approved

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith reminded Council that the next meeting would be an organizational meeting only for the purpose of swearing in Council members and election of officers. It was agreed to hold the meeting on January 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Smith also noted it would be up to the new Chairman to decide future meetings.

Chairman Smith noted this was the last regular scheduled meeting for 2014, and with that, this is Councilman Jeffery Martin's last meeting. Mr. Smith congratulated Dr. Martin on his term (2010-2014). Chairman Smith elaborated that Dr. Martin requested a charitable donation in lieu of a plaque. Therefore, a \$125.00 donation from Council was made to Clemson Community Care in honor of Dr. Martin's service to Pickens County Council.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for any new business.

- 1) Vice Chairman Tom Ponder moved to add a personnel issue to the executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.

Hearing no more items, Chairman Smith closed Motion Period and New Business.

PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Al Robinson with Cherry Bekaert presented the fiscal year 2014 audit. Mr. Robinson stated these reports are inspections of the county's financial records, accounting practices, and overall management of the finances. Pickens County meets or exceeds the criteria for best management practices. Mr. Robinson stated he is available for detailed discussion of the audit, but stated the financials of the county are clear and consistent. Also noted was the fact that the Finance Director, Ralph Guarino has

received the CAFRA award again. This award is not an easy award to obtain, and the financial statements are judged on above average best practices. Mr. Robinson stated it was always a pleasure to work with Mr. Guarino as well as the entire finance staff.

BUDGET CALENDAR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 – 2016

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the FY 2015/16 budget calendar.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 297 AS IT RELATES TO THE DEFINITION OF “JUNKYARDS”

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed for a first reading to amend Ordinance No. 297.
(Courtesy First Reading and back to Planning Commission)

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 415 AS IT RELATES TO THE DEFINITION OF “JUNKYARDS”

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed for a first reading to amend Ordinance No. 415.
(Courtesy First Reading and back to Planning Commission)

CONSENT AGENDA: *(these items will automatically be retained for 2015)*

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.
 - Prison Ministry Policy ---Public Service Committee
 - Waste Water Treatment Facilities---Public Service Committee
 - Septage receiving Center ---Public Service Committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.
 - Legal updates
 - Legal Issues
 - Personnel updates
 - Personnel Issues (added)
 - Contractual issues
 - Boards and Commissions

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

- 1) Milliken – Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to extend the investment piece for Milliken for (5) years for a total of (10) years. Motion was seconded by Chairman Neil Smith, motion carried with Councilman Trey Whitehurst voting in opposition.
- 2) SC-WARN- Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to approve and authorize staff to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pickens County and South Carolina Water & Wastewater Agency Response Network. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

- 3) Library Appointment – Vice Chairman Tom Ponder moved to appoint Susan Childers to the Library Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.
- 4) Tri-County Technical College – Vice Chairman Tom Ponder moved to re-appoint Tom Hendricks to the Tri-County Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.
- 5) Assessors Board of Appeals – Vice Chairman Tom Ponder moved to appoint Michael Thomas to the Assessors Board of Appeals. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman