

January 4, 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, December 28, 2009.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
Tom Ponder
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 January 4, 2010 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Jennifer Willis.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for the public forum and asked the clerk to introduce the citizens:

Tom Hendricks- Mr. Hendricks came before Council to caution Council about the proposal to be a lead agency in the Twelve Mile River issue as it relates to the removal of the third dam and the PCB storage site. Mr. Hendricks stated that it was suspicious that history provides other states which had dirt containing hazardous material was removed and destroyed in another state. Mr. Hendricks also reminded council that years ago the County attorney Henry Floyd warned the county about dealing with any of the PCB issues. Mr. Hendricks stated he was also opposed to the funding from the trustees being utilized anywhere but Pickens County, as that is where the majority of damage has been done.

Dot Jackson- Ms. Jackson wanted to thank Council for all they had done to help make the Birchwood Center a hopeful tourist destination. Ms. Jackson stated that the funds had been put to good use. She further stated the center had a long way to go, but had also come a long way, and she hoped Council would visit. Again, she expressed deep appreciation for the support of County Council.

Ben Trotter- Mr. Trotter reiterated Mr. Hendricks' comments about the Twelve Mile River project. Mr. Trotter also stated that the \$3 million from the trustees that is in question is money the county currently does not have; therefore it is not money that will be missed. Mr. Trotter also expressed concern about the contaminated dirt being placed in a landfill near the river. This dirt will eventually wash back into the river.

John Mauldin- Mr. Mauldin, Chief Public Defender, wanted to thank Council for their support as it relates to the addition of an attorney as of July of last year. Mr. Mauldin also wanted to publicly inform Council that County Administrator, Chap Hurst has been helpful in every situation, and anytime that he thinks there is no solution to a problem; Mr. Hurst always finds a way to resolve the issue.

Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark impressed upon Council that DHEC and EPA were clearly in the wrong regarding the air monitor in Clemson. Mr. Clark stated Pickens County was in need of businesses, and this issue is causing major problems. Mr. Clark did inform Council that the fire academy has finally received DHEC approval.

Approval of Minutes:

- Jennifer Willis moved to approve the December 21, 2009 minutes, motion was given a second by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst reported and updated Council on the following issues:

- Fiscal report- first (5) months of the fiscal year shows over \$1 million under budget on expenditures; revenues/fees are on target which is good considering the state has cut revenues. Mr. Hurst stated departments are doing a good job.
- Recycling incentives are working; Mr. Hurst read a note from the City of Easley that stated an increase in aluminum cans from last year to the present. Also Mr. Hurst stated that all the municipalities have received certified letters as it relates to the new extended guidelines for recycling. Council was informed that all but one municipality accepted the letter, and for the one, the letter was hand delivered.
- Sewer- 18 Mile extension- All right of ways have been obtained for the sewer extension project that extends sewer on Highway 123; also the grant and school funds have been secured, and grant monies will be used first. Mr. Hurst stated that this project should be a good stimulus for the economy.
- North Plant project was also successful in obtaining grants, and DHEC issued a permit regarding the phosphorus levels on this project. Mr. Hurst stated he obtained studies for phosphorus to ensure this would not be a future issue that could drive up cost for additional upgrades.
- 18 Mile upper sewer plant- Mr. Hurst stated he is training in-house personnel to inspect the painting of the tanks. Specifications are being looked at because this process involves more than regular painting, and should be inspected for proper procedures.
- EMS- Mr. Hurst stated that staff has been working on a proposal from the last Administration and Finance Committee meeting as it relates to better EMS service on the Highway 11/ Holly Springs part of the county. He stated he would be ready to present some solutions as this moves forward. Also noted was the good use of EMS equipment which is called a 12 lead EKG, that was recently used on a local citizen. This EKG was sophisticated enough to alert the hospital of heart blockages and a lifesaving procedure was performed within 45 minutes of the EMS call.
- Census Posters- Mr. Hurst stated that Census posters and other marketing with census 2010 would begin.

Council Correspondence:

Chairman Smith went over the Read/poster project from the Pickens County Library. Chairman Smith stated the library will contact the clerk for appointments so each council member can help promote reading in the county.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Hearing no motions, Chairman Smith closed the motion period.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Sam Wyche and seconded by Randy Crenshaw to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

Legal briefing

Contractual issue

Fire Department

A-Tax Committee

PUBLIC SESSION BACK TO ORDER:

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

2009 Fire District Board Appointments

Central

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

Jim Martin
195 Leland Drive
Central, SC 29630

Crosswell

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

Jeff Lee	Grady Gaston
330 Sonora Dr.	220 Saluda View Dr.
Easley, SC 29640	Easley, SC 29640

Dacusville

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

Sam Childers
136 Edinburgh Lane
Easley, SC 29640

Easley

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Craig Quillin
116 April Drive
Easley, SC 29640

Holly Springs

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by James London and unanimously passed.
- Edgar Smith

2021 Moorefield Memorial Hwy.
Sunset, SC 29685

Liberty

- Motion was made by Chairman Smith, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

Richard Ricken
127 Fleetwood Drive
Liberty, SC 29657

Pickens

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed

Freddy Duncan
125 Anna Lane
Pickens SC 29671

Pumpkintown

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

William Alexander
200 Hunteas Ridge
Pickens, SC 29671

Rocky Bottom

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Barry Crayford
202 Aiken Drive
Sunset, SC 29671

Shady Grove

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Bobby Cummins
117 Burwood Ct.
Sunset, SC 29685

Six Mile

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed

Gary Ross	Harold Dalton
129 Cove Road	931 Mile Creek Road
Six Mile, SC 29682	Six Mile, SC 29682

Vineyards

- motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed.

Brian Smyth
109 Lark Spur Lane
Sunset, SC 29685

Accommodations Tax

- Jennifer Willis moved to appoint Dale Powell as a lodging member to the Accommodations Tax Board, and Olivia Harris as the at large member. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

Actions as it relates to third dam removal:

- Jennifer Willis moved regarding the third dam removal on Twelve Mile River, to ask federal judge and trustees to require Schlumberger to set aside a trust fund above and beyond all monies already committed to the remediation program to monitor and maintain the site where dirt is removed (Ball property) in perpetuity. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.
- Jennifer Willis moved for council to ask federal judge and trustees to require Schlumberger to comply with Pickens County Storm water Ordinance, permitting etc. to be brought to Pickens County for approval. Motion was seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed.
- Jennifer Willis moved for council to ask federal judge and trustees to require EPA and DHEC to treat SMU facility as a Class III landfill in handling of material stored on the Ball site. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

Jennifer Willis requested the floor for a political comment-

Ms. Willis stated that council has talked at length about the issue of the removal of the third dam; and that council has obviously agreed with the concept that the third dam should be removed, and have written resolutions and letters in favor of removal, but Mrs. Willis stated that she personally is not in favor of County Council being the lead party nor taking any action to be the lead party in its removal or responsibility.

Chairman Smith stated he would allow other comments since he gave the floor to Mrs. Willis, hearing none, Chairman Smith closed the floor.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for the motion for adjournment. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County Council

