

January 18, 2011
Regular Council Meeting
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, January 14, 2011.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman
G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman
Tom Ponder, VC Pro-Tem
Jeff Martin
Trey Whitehurst
Sam Wyche

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Willis called the meeting of January 18, 2011 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Willis further gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Willis called upon the Clerk for introduction of public forum speakers. No citizens signed up for public forum. Chairman Willis asked if anyone wanted to speak that did not get an opportunity to sign up. Hearing none, public forum was closed with no participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Willis stated unless she heard objection, she would accept one motion to approve all three sets of minutes.

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of December 6, 2010, December 20, 2010, and January 04, 2011.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst advised Council of the following issues.

1. Snow Storm of January 9, 2011- Mr. Hurst stated that some parts of Pickens County received 10 inches of snow. Mr. Hurst took the opportunity to thank EMS, Rescue, Fire, Sheriff's office, Police, and Roads and Bridges departments. Also noted was the fact that the Emergency Operations Center was open with assistance from the National Guard. Mr. Hurst stated that assistance was provided for employees of hospitals, nursing homes and home health care to receive necessary transportation. Mr. Hurst stated the Emergency Operation Center provided service to citizens who needed dialysis and other life threatening procedures. Mr. Hurst stated that Pickens County's road crew had worked well with municipalities and schools to assist in major snow and ice removal.
2. Get Fit Day- Mr. Hurst stated that County Council had always encouraged wellness programs for County employees. Therefore, this year Pickens County's health insurance provider, hospitals,

YMCA, and other vendors are working together for a county wide wellness fair. Mr. Hurst stated there will be many press releases available in the next few weeks to advertise the March 3, 2011 Get Fit Day. This kick off will feature Biggest Loser contestants from the Upstate who will speak about the benefits of weight loss, nutrition, and exercise. The event will kick off at the First Baptist Church in Pickens.

3. Forestry services- Mr. Hurst reminded Council that several months ago the Forestry commission had proposed some timber opportunities to Pickens County land owners. The Forestry Commission along with Pickens Alliance and Clemson Extension will host the first of (4) classes to educate citizens about the different timbers that can be grown in the area of the Upstate. The session will begin January 20th at 6:30 PM at the BJ Skelton Center.
4. Tri-County Technical College- Mr. Hurst stated the Easley Campus of Tri-County Technical College has completed a first orientation. Programs are developed for several two-year career choices, and an opportunity for students to move on to a four-year college. Mr. Hurst thanked County Council for their vision in seeing the importance of this facility.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Willis announced that no committees had met during this agenda period.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Willis made the following announcements:

1. Retreat Schedule- Chairman Willis requested that Council give the Clerk some dates for a half day retreat.
2. Next Meeting and Agenda Preparation- Chairman Willis announced the next regular meeting would be on February 7th, 2011 at 6:30 PM. Also Chairman Willis requested that Council have agenda items to her or the Clerk by Wednesday January 26, 2011. Mrs. Willis informed Council that she will be setting the agenda on Wednesday a week and half prior to the meeting. This will enable the Council to have the agenda packet a full week in advance.
3. Boards and Commissions- Chairman Willis informed Council to look at their boards and commissions and make arrangements for appointments or reappointments for upcoming vacancies.

Chairman Willis asked if there were further announcements.

Councilman Ponder-

1. Assisting the municipalities and schools. Mr. Ponder commented that citizens should realize when County staff is working in the municipalities and school districts, that the County is reimbursed, but to also realize that when equipment is available and agencies are sharing resources, it always benefits the taxpayer.

Councilman Wyche-

1. Emergency Operations- Mr. Wyche commented on the outstanding job of the EOC during the snow storm. He stated he had gone by the EOC, and he was impressed with the staff.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for any new business.

- Chairman Willis moved to add an economic development issue to executive session. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed

Hearing no further motions, Chairman Willis closed the motion period.

THIRD READING ORDINANCE 437 TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCES NO. 384, 410, 424 AND 433 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes the third and final reading of Ordinance Number 437.

REQUEST FOR \$20,000 OF CONTINGENCY FUNDS FOR JAWS OF LIFE EQUIPMENT FOR LIBERTY RESCUE:

Chairman Willis requested for Mr. Hurst to explain the contingency fund request.

>Mr. Hurst stated this particular piece of equipment was recently damaged during a maintenance procedure, and the cost to repair would not be beneficial. Mr. Hurst explained that our vendor had used equipment that would be a better use of the funds. Mr. Hurst stated the urgency in this situation is the fact that this type of equipment is crucial in the event of a car accident with entrapment.

>Councilmen Whitehurst, Ponder, and Martin all expressed concern about the fact that maintenance was irresponsibly performed on such an expensive piece of equipment.

>Mr. Hurst assured Council that the issue has been addressed and further informed Council that a warranty would be in tact with the used equipment.

Chairman Willis called for a motion.

- Motion to approve \$20,000 from contingency for the Jaws of Life equipment was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.

Refer to Public Service Committee: Consideration of alternative municipal solid waste vendor.

Refer to Public Service Committee: Ladd Lane as Minimum Maintenance

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Willis called for a motion for executive session following a five-minute recess.

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated and amended issues.
 - Legal update
 - Personnel update
 - Boards and Commissions
 - Planning Commission-
 - Library-
 - TERC request-
 - Economic Development (amended)

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Willis called the public session back into order and allowed the following motions.

1. Library Board-

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to appoint Harry Rivers to fill the unexpired term of Tonya Hendricks on the Library Board.
- 2. Planning Commission-
 - Motion was made by Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to appoint William Cato to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Whitehurst on the Planning Commission.
- 3. TERC Funds-
 - Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the \$30,000 to be placed with the Liberty Chamber of Commerce for Pickens County Marketing, and for the Administrator and Projects Coordinator to oversee the project.
- 4. Project Dinosaur-
 - Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed that this constitute a first reading in title only of an ordinance for a Fee in Lieu for Project Dinosaur.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Willis requested a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman