

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting  
August 18, 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 August 11, 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

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator  
Ken Roper, County Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Smith called the meeting of August 18, 2014 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith further led 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) Junius Smith-Mr. Smith came before Council to state his displeasure that the new County Administrator was quoted in the local newspaper discussing involvement in the Doodle Trail. Mr. Smith reminded Council that he and other constituents have been promised that the County will have absolutely no involvement in this project. Mr. Smith further stated legal issues with the right of way of utilities. Mr. Smith stated these utility poles are obstructing his view, and the utilities have given permission to Charter Communications to utilize those poles without permission. Mr. Smith asked the council to change the set-back rules in the Ordinance.
- 2) Jim McDonald- Mr. McDonald informed Council that South Carolina was a “common law” State, and therefore “we” are working on 1,835 Federal Judge Indictments for violating “our” rights. Mr. McDonald further stated anyone with a card from the Bar Association has no authority. Mr. McDonald said the Clerk of Court will be notified for the needed space at the courthouse for these indictments.

>> Chairman Smith asked Mr. McDonald who he was speaking of when he used the term “we”. Mr. McDonald answered it meant “we the people of the United States.” Mr. McDonald stated the only authority was the authority of the people, and the elected officials work for the people and have no authority.

Chairman Smith informed Mr. McDonald that making threats of indictments in a public forum, and in the presence of elected officials was inappropriate behavior. Mr. Smith stated this type of discussion was threatening and he would not tolerate it any further.

- 3) Steve Haynie-Mr. Haynie explained to Council that he had recently been to a City Council meeting, and the Council was renegotiating a price for the removal of railroad ties. Mr. Haynie stated there was an increase of 75%. Mr. Haynie stated it would be a matter of time before these municipalities were out of money, and he asked council not to get involved with these costly projects.

>>Before closing public forum, Chairman Smith apologized for his sternness, but stated the public forum should be utilized in an appropriate manner. Mr. Smith also stated he thought County Council was always gracious and patient to listen to many topics that are not in the purview of County business.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES –June 23, June 24, June 26, and July 24, 2014:**

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve all the minutes as presented.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

-Introduction of the Prison Director-- Mr. Guarino introduced the new Prison Director – Mr. Drew Sisco. Mr. Sisco was formally over the jail at the Sheriff’s office. Mr. Guarino stated the County was glad to have Mr. Sisco in this position.

- Request from local Judges—Mr. Guarino stated there has been a request for approximately \$2,000 to do the portrait for outgoing Judge Welmaker. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> circuit judge to be from Pickens County. This portrait would hang in the courthouse with the others.

>During discussion, Councilman Trey Whitehurst was hesitant about the process. Therefore, Chairman Smith ruled this item should go to committee.

**COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Introduction of Ensley Feemster – Councilman Jeff Martin introduced Mr. and Mrs. Ensley Feemster. Mr. Feemster is running unopposed as the District 1 council representative, and will take the seat in January. Council welcomed them, and extended any assistance moving forward.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business.

- Vice Chairman Tom Ponder requested (1) legal issue and (2) personnel issues for executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed.
- Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to send to the consent agenda the portrait for Judge Edward Welmaker. This should go to the Administration and Finance Committee. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith closed Motion Period.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 481 FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$700,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2015 OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.**

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of Ordinance No. 481.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-03 TO EXPRESS THE INTENTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO BE REIMBURSED FOR CERTAIN COSTS WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX-EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS.**

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve Resolution No. 2014-03.

**SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE NO. 480 TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK DATED NOVEMBER 4, 1996 BY AND BETWEEN GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS OF 1976 §4-1-170, ET SEQUITER, AS AMENDED; SO AS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY AND TO FURTHER DESCRIBE SUCH PROPERTY IN THAT PORTION OF THE JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing for anyone desiring to speak on Ordinance No. 480. Hearing no comments, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing for Ordinance No. 480.

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 480.

**APPROVAL OF DENTON DRIVE TO BE IN THE MINIMUM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve this road for the minimum maintenance program.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

Pickens County Aeronautics Commission Request—Committee of the Whole  
Request from the Library regarding a bus stop – Administration and Finance  
Ethics Policy—Administration and Finance  
Judges Portrait- Administration and Finance (as added)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- Motion was made by Chairman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for stated purposes as amended.
  - Legal updates
  - Personnel updates
  - Contractual issues
  - Boards and Commissions
  - (2) legal issues as added
  - (1) personnel issue as added

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

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

Approval of Project Willy Wonka- Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to approve authorization of project Willy Wonka. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and passed with Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, Councilman Trey Whitehurst, Chairman Smith, Councilman Randy Crenshaw and Councilman Jeff Martin voting in favor. Vice Chairman Tom Ponder was not present for this action. (5-0).

Fire Personnel/Fire services issues- Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to place Fire Personnel and Fire services issues in the Administration and Finance Committee. Motion was seconded by Chairman Smith 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 9:20 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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G. Neil Smith, Chairman