

March 16, 2009
Regular Council Meeting
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, March 11, 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

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of March 16, 2009 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith called upon Councilman London to give the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder to approve the minutes of March 2, 2009. All voted in favor with the exception of Chairman Smith who abstained due to absence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Smith called upon Committee Chairman, Jennifer Willis to give the committee report.

1. Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning

Jennifer Willis gave the following report:

The Committee of Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning met on March 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Main Conference Room. Committee Chairman, Jennifer Willis did preside with members London and Wyche in attendance.

Staff:
Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Olivia Vassey, Research Analyst

Item	Description	Referred	Action
1	Issues as it relates to Article 5 of the Unified Development standards ordinance	01/20/09	>>Committee removed item 1 from the log. <u>Council approved- Item was removed.</u>
2	Cemetery Project	03/02/09	>>No action, Staff will bring back a sign design and a final list to the committee.
3	Stimulus package Pickens County.	03/02/09	>>Committee recommends up to \$200,000 in matching funds for the purpose of training and education for GED programs, Quick Start, and Fast Track. It is suggested that the allocation be: 45% GED 45% Quick Start 10% Fast Track If the allocation needs to change it would come back to the committee. >>Council approved, Chairman Smith voted in opposition due to the funding issue. Chairman Smith stated this would be a difficult year economically. Chap Hurst did inform Council that funding would more than likely be for leverage, as the Work link board has adequate funding for these types of programs. >>Committee Recommends a Resolution in Support of requesting matching funds. >>>Council approved the Resolution unanimously.
4	Southerland Property re- parks and recreation.	03/02/09	>>Motion is to move forward up to \$257,000 for the purchase of Southerland Property contingent upon conservation easement. Jennifer Willis opposed >>During the council meeting of 3/16/09 – the council was informed by staff that the sales price did exceed the motion amount of \$257,000. James London moved to recommit this item to committee and allow more time for staff to look at possibilities and to also know more about economic issues with the State. >>Council unanimously approved. Item is recommitted.

Administrator's Report:

- Mr. Hurst informed Council of the following issues:
1. Federal Stimulus Funds -Council was updated on the stimulus funding as it relates to the difficulties counties are seeing in this process. Mr. Hurst stated that the agencies involved such as the Appalachian Council of Governments are not getting the information they need in order to provide it to the local governments.

Mr. Hurst gave the example of the North Sewer Plant, which was a qualifying project for the stimulus funding, but, with the mixed signals about the ranking of this project, and the fact that it must be moved on immediately. Mr. Hurst asked council to provide the engineering cost (\$225,000) in the upcoming budget amendment.

2. Project report - Mr. Hurst stated the EMS station in Easley, as well as the airport terminal is nearing completion.
3. Insurance bids- workers compensation and property liability is going out for bid.
4. Amnesty programs - are ongoing in several sub-divisions and is very popular.
5. Stimulus for the Education Programs- Mr. Hurst stated that since the committee of Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare and County Planning had met about the education funding, he had spoken with representatives of worklink and they have indicated a surplus of funding for the ideas that the committee is approaching.
6. Special Award- Recycling Coordinator, Lou Holder, gave Mr. Roach an award for outstanding recycling employee. Ms. Holder stated that the county is fortunate to have the recycling attendants and they all do a good job.

>>Mr. Hurst stated that Ms. Lou Holder was doing a great job, and she was taking on more responsibilities with the cities and the recycling programs as a whole. It is a staff goal to increase the recycling.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith gave the following correspondence.

April Schedule announced as follows:

April 13, 2009 – only meeting for April
April 14, 2009 – budget work session
April 28, 2009 – budget work session
April 30, 2009 – budget work session

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board – April 13, 2009 – council would need citizen groups for the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board. Chairman Smith stated they wanted approximately 50 names.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith called for any motion to add new business.

Addition to the agenda:

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw to add to the agenda a first reading for a budget amendment in the amount of \$425,000. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

FIRST READING OF THE FY 2008/2009 BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$425,000:

- Tom Ponder moved that this constitute a first reading of an ordinance to amend the FY 2008/09 agenda. Randy Crenshaw seconded the motion and first reading was passed with a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR HIPPA AMENDMENT:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the Resolution for the HIPPA amendment.

>>Chairman Smith stated there were staff members for explanation if anyone so desired. However, this was a health insurance issue and by law the resolution was mandatory.

REQUEST FROM LIBERTY FIRE DISTRICT FOR LAND PURCHASE:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the land purchase by the Liberty fire district. It was noted that the fire district has the funding to do this transaction.

APPROVAL TO FUND THE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TOURISM:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis to approve \$10,000 for the product development plan. Also Mrs. Willis stated that during the work session it was discussed that heritage corridor was providing \$5,000, for a total of \$15,000. Tom Ponder gave a second to the motion, and all council voted in the affirmative.

Chap Hurst stated the plan would be started immediately, and staff would give focus to the board when they were appointed, and this would give the board a project to work with as they convened.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Jennifer Willis moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Road List – Refer to the Public Service Committee

Approval of grants/ Sheriff’s Office – Refer to the Administration and Finance

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Jennifer Willis moved to convene in executive session for the stated purposes, Randy Crenshaw seconded the motion. All voted in the affirmative, and motion carried.

1) Council to review and take action on expired Boards and Commissions

2) Contractual Issue

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith stated that in the essence of time, he would allow one motion to cover all the re-appointments as well as the new appointments. If anyone objected they can look at the appointments separately. All Council members concurred.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to take the following actions regarding boards and commissions.

Boards and Commissions:

Accommodations tax: - Reappoint Pat Mulky, Judy Burns, Amy Barrett, and Dot Yandle; new appointment Sandra Wimphrie.

Aeronautics Commission: - Reappoint Joseph Boykin, Bobby Price, Al Wilson, Matt Ellison and Verone Peace. *(all reappointed for correction terms)*

Assessment and Appeals: - *Auditor to check with the members*, if all want to serve a letter will go to the Governor's office for re-appointment. (Louie Bolding, Carl Watkins, Robert Pilgrim, Lew Jordon and Allen Holloway)

Beautification Committee: - Reappoint Gina McClellan and Sally McGuire. *(term corrections)*

Construction Board of Appeal: - Reappoint Frank Kelley alternates- Tim Wade and Danny Ard.; new appointments Michael Sheriff, Ronald Ardis, David Porter and Alan Lait

Cultural Commission: - Reappoint Kathleen Brazinski, Judy Lindsay, and Susan Benjamin; new appointments Rosie Jordan and Tom Benko.

Pickens, Oconee, Anderson Mental Health: - Reappoint Jake McKinney.

Planning Commission: - Reappoint Dewitt Stone and Charles Smith; new appointment Trey Whitehurst.

Public Service Commission: - Reappoint Paul West and Richard Robertson; new appointment Ben Cole.

Tri-County Technical College: - Reappoint Dr. Mendel Stewart.

Zoning Board of Appeals: - Reappoint Dennis Reinert

Chairman Smith stated the Clerk would present the list with the changes and Council should let her know of any discrepancies.

Adjourn:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn; motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County Council