

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
December 16, 2013
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 9, 2013.

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:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of December 16, 2013 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith further asked Councilman Randy Crenshaw to lead the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES – December 2, 2013:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of December 2, 2013 as presented.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

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

- 1) County Projects- Mr. Hurst stated that he wanted Council to know that all county projects are going well and on schedule.
 - Economic Development Building would have a final walk-through on Thursday December 19.
 - Fire station projects are on schedule with permits.
 - WK Dickson is on schedule with airport projects.
 - An \$8,000 grant has been secured for beautification/landscaping at the magistrates building.

Mr. Hurst concluded by stating that the Hagood Mill will be closed until after the first of the year out of respect for the county's mill manager, Mr. Ed Bolt, who recently passed away. Mr. Hurst stated his thoughts and prayers were with the Bolt family; especially at this holiday season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**note- Mr. Crenshaw stated he would delay his committee report until the next meeting.

YEAR END COMMITTEE LOGS:

- a) Administration and Finance – Chairman Smith moved to retain all items on the Admin/Finance log. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed.
- b) Public Service- Vice Chairman Tom Ponder retained all item on the Public Service Log except Log item #16, motion was seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed.
- c) Justice and Public Safety- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed to retain all items on the Justice and Public Safety Log.
- d) Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and Planning-Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to retain the Education/Recreation Log, and instructed the Clerk to add back the Upstate air quality pledge/resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed.
- e) Committee of the Whole- Chairman Smith moved to retain all items on the COW Log. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Vice Chairman Tom Ponder stated the annual Christmas Parade in Dacusville went well, and also noted that the Delegation would be meeting on January 2, 2014 at 5:30 at the Dacusville Community Center.

Chairman Smith stated that the lowering of County flags had been a recent topic; he further informed the public that there are twelve County flags at various locations, and lowering them is something that comes from the order of the Governor or President. Chairman Smith pointed out that County Council does not have jurisdiction over elected officials. However, he wanted the public to be aware of what the protocol is when lowering the flags.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business. Hearing none, new business was closed.

PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:

Council received the audit report from Cherry Bekaert. Mr. Alan Robinson presented the audit document and stated while the information is a lot to go through, the audit was found to be a clean unqualified audit. Mr. Robinson stated this simply means that there were no issues with fiscal responsibility, and good practices are in use. Mr. Robinson did inform Council that this is the eighth year in a row that Ralph Guarino has received the CAFRA award for excellence in accounting practices. Mr. Robinson emphasized this award is not given freely; it is an extremely prestigious award that bodes well for the County's bond rating, and interest rates. Mr. Robinson further thanked Mr. Guarino and his staff for their professionalism. Mr. Robinson stated that if Council had any questions as they went through the audit document, he would be available for future meetings.

Council thanked Mr. Robinson, as well as recognizing that Mr. Guarino and his staff do an excellent job with the County's financial principles.

APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET CALENDAR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

APPROVAL FOR DACUSVILLE FIRE DISTRICT TO APPLY FOR FEMA GRANT FUNDING:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the Dacusville Fire District FEMA grant.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR PICKENS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT:

- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw , seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the Pickens Rural Fire agreement.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR THE SHADY GROVE AREA FIRE DISTRICT:

- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the Pickens Rural Fire agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 474 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE RELIABLE AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER CO., INC. PROVIDING FOR A PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES, A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO:

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wanted to make comments regarding Ordinance No. 474. Hearing none the public hearing was closed.

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 474.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as proposed.

1) Administration and Finance committee: Gift of Property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.
 - Legal/Personnel Update
 - Boards and Commissions

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and advised no action as a result of executive session.

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 Jeff Martin and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman

