

**\*\*Please note - These are not official minutes of the Pickens County Council meeting. This reflects the issues that were before Council and shows the actions, however the minutes are not “official” until the County Council meets and approves them as presented. Please contact, Donna Owen, Council Clerk for any questions.**

June 19, 2006  
Regular Meeting  
6:00 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, June 13, 2006.

Council Members in attendance:  
Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman  
G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman  
C. Roy Collins  
Tom Ponder  
Ben L. Trotter

Absent: James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro Tempore

Staff: Ralph Guarino, Interim County Administrator  
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator  
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council  
Ken Roper, County Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Willis called the meeting of June 19, 2006 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Ben Trotter gave the invocation and thanked staff and citizens for their prayers and concerns during his wife's recent illness.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR THE HONOR OF TITLING MR. WELDON DAY AS PICKENS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR EMERITUS:**

Council honored Mr. Weldon Day with a resolution that was adopted on May 25, 2006; Mr. Day and his family were also honored with a flag and letter from Congressman Barrett's office.

**RESOLUTION NO. 06-04**

**A Resolution of Honor and Recognition to Mr. Robert Weldon Day, and to proclaim him as**

***Pickens County Administrator Emeritus***

**WHEREAS**, on September 1, 1957 Robert Weldon Day was appointed to serve as the Clerk to the Pickens County Board of Commissioners, for a sum of \$1,100 per year; and

**WHEREAS**, R. Weldon Day served in the capacity of Clerk to the Commissioners until 1976, at which time he officially became the first Administrator for Pickens County; and

**WHEREAS**, his tenure as Administrator began when the population of Pickens County was 58,900 and employed approximately 200 employees, and upon retiring after 32 years, he led a County of over 94,000 and more than 320 employees; and

**WHEREAS**, his years of service to Pickens County were marked with exemplary dedication to the best interest of the community as he worked for constant improvement of its economic, cultural, and aesthetic development; and

**WHEREAS**, upon his retirement in June of 1989, he was honored as a friend and leader. However, the Pickens County Council of 2006 wanted to make known the significance and historical value of such a career in the growth and shaping of Pickens County Government and Pickens County.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Pickens County Council hereby acknowledges and honors Robert Weldon Day for his Thirty-Two years of leadership and to bestow upon him the honorary title of

***Pickens County Administrator Emeritus***

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the distinction of this honorary title, Pickens County Administrator Emeritus, shall be publicly displayed in honor of Robert Weldon Day, and shall become part of the official record of Pickens County.

>>Council recessed for a time of celebration with Mr. Day and his family.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

June 5, 2006      Regular Council Meeting  
June 5, 2006      Special Council Meeting

>>Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes as presented.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Executive session items.** Neil Smith moved to add to the executive session (2) personnel issues as it relates to recruitment of the new County Administrator and compensation of the Interim Administrator. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.
2. **Flag folding.** Ben Trotter requested that someone advise the Building Maintenance Department regarding the proper way to take down and fold the American Flag.

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 379, FY 2006-2007 BUDGET ORDINANCE:**

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Neil Smith that this constitutes the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 379 FY 2006/2007 Budget Ordinance.

- Ben Trotter moved to take \$25,000 from contingency for Mary's House, which is a shelter for abused women and their children. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

- Ben Trotter moved to adjust the pay increases for Vineyards Fire Department Employees to equal all other employee pay increases. Mr. Trotter further stated he did not think it was fair that one department could have a 6% increase when other county employees were allotted a maximum of 4%, which is a 1% COLA and a 3% merit. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
- Tom Ponder moved for the \$6,000 requested by Pumpkintown Fire District for salary to be placed in an account for their repair to vehicles and equipment. Seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.
- Tom Ponder moved to allow \$1,000 for the Pumpkintown Fire District for use of payment for the volunteer staff. Mr. Ponder explained this allowed someone to be at the department and also assisted in ISO ratings. The motion also included a \$1.00 increase in fire fees. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.
- Neil Smith moved to allow staff to work with the Information Systems Department in order to provide cost analysis for the sheriff's office request for satellite operations within the County. The motion did not include funds, but cost information will come back to Council. Motion was seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed.
- Roy Collins moved to allow funding for a 4H leader. Mr. Collins stated the 4H program was extremely worthy and this funding had been cut by the extension program. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder.  
Council discussed that this was indeed a worthy program and regretted its funding source being withdrawn. However many council members stated they thought this budget year could not support the program.  
>>Roy Collins voted in favor. Tom Ponder, Neil Smith, Chairman Willis, and Ben Trotter voted in opposition. Motion failed.
- Roy Collins moved to add the detective position back to the budget for the Sheriff's office. Mr. Collins stated the position was needed and the citizens of the county stated public safety as being a number 1 priority. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. Roy Collins, Chairman Willis, and Tom Ponder voted in favor; Neil Smith and Ben Trotter opposed. Motion carried.
- Ben Trotter moved to add one more paramedic to the EMS budget. Neil Smith seconded the motion.  
Council discussed that EMS has requested (2) paramedics, and in the last reading of the budget received (1). Mr. Guarino stated the budget was now at a point of a tax increase if any further personnel were added.  
>>Ben Trotter voted in favor, and all other council opposed. Motion failed.

>>Chairman Willis called for the vote of third and final reading as amended. Chairman Willis, Tom Ponder, and Roy Collins voted in favor; Neil Smith and Ben Trotter opposed. Motion passed that this constitutes the third and final reading of Ordinance No. 379 as amended.

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 380, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSFERRING AUTHORITY OVER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF CLEMSON TO PICKENS COUNTY REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS:**

>>Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 380.

**APPROVAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY LIST:**

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter to approve the Surplus Property List as presented with the items removed for trade-in.

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the request from the Town of Central for car#133.

After the vote, Mr. Collins stated he had several questions regarding the trade in items.

Ben Trotter made the motion to reconsider, Roy Collins seconded, so that council could continue to debate.

Staff clarified the items that were on the trade-in list and stated these items were off the surplus list as a result. Also Staff gave further details regarding why these items were going to be traded.

1986 BOMAG	BOMAG ROLLER BW12R
1985 CHAMPION	715 MOTOR GRADER
DYNAWELD	50 TON LOWBOY TRAILER

Council agreed and thanked staff for clarification.

>>Motion to reconsider failed with all council voting in opposition of reconsidering. Previous motions stood.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2006/2007 CONTRACTS WITH CATEECHEE AND PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR WASTEWATER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:**

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the contract with Cateechee and Pickens School District for wastewater operations.

**REQUEST FROM ROADS AND BRIDGES TO PURCHASE A CREW CAB TRUCK INSTEAD OF REPLACING THE POT HOLE PATCH MACHINE:**

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the request by the Roads and Bridges Department.

**REQUEST FROM ROADS AND BRIDGES TO MODIFY CURRENT EQUIPMENT UTILIZATION:**

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the request as it relates to changing the equipment in the Roads and Bridges Department.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

>>Motion was made Roy Collins, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.

The following items were approved via consent.

- Maple Creek Estates. Refer to the Public Service Committee.
- County Health Insurance rates for 2007. Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to convene in Executive Session for the stated purposes.

- Appointments to Boards and Commissions
- Behavioral Health and Cultural Commission
- Personnel- Discuss Interim Register of Deeds Director
- Personnel- as it relates to the Interim Administrator
- Personnel- as it relates to recruitment of a new County Administrator

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

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

**Cultural Commission:** Motion was made by Chairman Willis, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to re-appoint Seth Heimlich, Connie Bowers, Hal Jameson, and Dean Watson.

**Behavioral Health Services:** Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed to re-appoint Charlie Hagood, Ken Foutz and Ernie Dandeneau.

**Interim Register of Deeds Director:**

Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to allow Joan Bowen to serve as interim Register of Deeds Director for a 60 day time period.

**Compensation for the Interim County Administrator:**

Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis to provide a one time \$20,000 bonus to Ralph Guarino for serving as the County Administrator since February of 2006. Motion passed with all Council members voting in favor, and Roy Collins requesting to abstain. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

With there being no further business before the Pickens County Council, motion to adjourn was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 9:50 PM.