

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
November 18, 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 November 11, 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

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of November 18, 2013 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith further recognized Vice Chairman Tom Ponder to lead 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 apprised Council of several concerns. First, he stated he was a participant at the public hearing relating to the 7th member of the school board. Mr. Smith stated the meeting was unsatisfactory. Participants were allowed only 5 minutes to speak, and there were various maps without proper explanation.
On another issue, Mr. Smith stated due to the new health care rules, his doctor's office has permanently closed. Mr. Smith warned Council there will be more medical facilities closing. In conclusion, Mr. Smith asked council to be aware that there could be a new ruling regarding saying the name Jesus Christ in prayer as it relates to praying in government meetings. Mr. Smith stated he was hopeful this ruling would provide for a positive outcome, and he further stated this should be the type of prayer that Pickens County adopts.
- 2) Steve Haynie-Mr. Haynie advised Council that he had recently been to a meeting of the Department of Transportation. This was a public forum relating to the extension of Highway 153. Mr. Haynie found that meeting to be unsatisfactory due to the fact that maps were showing new roads to provide bike paths and pedestrian paths. Mr. Haynie stated the reasoning for this extension was to remove automobile traffic from Highway 123, and not pedestrian/bike traffic. Mr. Haynie advised Council to teach the State DOT about cost savings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 21, 2013:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of October 21, 2013 as presented.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

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

- 1) Alice Mill in Easley- Mr. Hurst stated that a citizen had come before Council over a year ago with great concerns about the abandoned Alice Mill in Easley. Mr. Hurst stated that the mill has now been purchased and the entire structure will be demolished. This will be positive for this area, as the citizen did have valid concerns about the vacant building being unsightly and dangerous.
- 2) Building Codes Department- Mr. Hurst stated the auditors from International Standards have looked at the permitting/inspection process for the County, and they have certified the department in good standing for another year.
- 3) E911 System-Mr. Hurst stated he has been reporting on all the technology that has been going on relating to ambulances, dispatchers, and the entire public safety system. Mr. Hurst stated that last week the systems were tested on the technology that a dispatcher can dispatch an emergency vehicle now by automatically knowing which vehicle is the closest to the emergency. Mr. Hurst stated this technology makes a huge difference when each second counts. He is very pleased with the public safety staff on these ongoing projects.
- 4) Christmas Holidays- Mr. Hurst requested that Council consider adopting the State holiday structure for Christmas by closing County offices the day after Christmas. Therefore, the County offices would be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the day after Christmas.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith asked if anyone had any comments for correspondence.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked Council to check their email/mail for the announcement of the new bank opening in Six Mile.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business. Seeing none, the floor closed without any additions or corrections to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AUTOMATIC AID FOR A SPECIFIED AREA IN THE DACUSVILLE/CROSSWELL FIRE DISTRICT:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to approve the automatic aid in the Crosswell/Dacusville Fire area.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF SIX MILE HEIGHTS ROAD INTO THE MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ROAD SYSTEM:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to accept Six Mile Heights into the County Road System.

SECOND 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:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 474.

APPROVAL OF INDUCEMENT RESOLUTION NO. 2013-07 PROVIDING FOR A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT AND SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY AND THE RELIABLE AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER CO., INC:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, and unanimously passed to approve Resolution No. 2013-07.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 473 AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO CORNERSTONE NATIONAL BANK, F.A.:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for anyone requesting to make comment as it relates to Ordinance No. 473. Hearing none, the public hearing for Ordinance No. 473 was closed.

- Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 473.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 475 TO AMEND THE FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE PARK AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCE NO. 398 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO AMEND THE TERM OF THE PARK FOR PROJECT FLAT PROPERTY:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 475.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 471 TO DEVELOP A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 13 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION, AND SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS OF 1976 §4-1-170, ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXES TO THE COUNTIES AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES; TO PROVIDE THAT JOBS TAX CREDITS ALLOWED BY LAW BE PROVIDED FOR BUSINESSES LOCATING IN SAID PARK; TO PERMIT A USER FEE-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXATION WITHIN SAID PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 471.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 472 TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCES NO. 384, 410, 424, 433, 437, 438, 442, 451 AND 461 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

- Motion was made by Chairman Smith, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 472.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to convene in 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 the following.

Aeronautics Commission – Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to place Carlos Salinas on the Aeronautics Board. Motion was seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed.

Employee Holiday Schedule – Councilman Jeff Martin moved to follow the State standard for County office’s to be closed the day after Christmas. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw 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 Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman