

December 6, 2010
Regular Council Meeting
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media, December 1, 2010.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
James B. London
Tom Ponder
Randy Crenshaw
Sam Wyche
James London

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of December 6, 2010 to order and welcomed those in attendance. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Wyche.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith called upon the Clerk to Council for a list of citizens who want to participate in public forum.

1. Junius Smith and Johnnell Raines- Both Mr. Smith and Ms. Raines spoke against the proposed Comprehensive Plan and encouraged Council to only adopt a plan that is about capitalism, and a plan that is unique only to Pickens County. Mr. Smith stated the plan is much more than a guide, and once it is adopted, it is too late to reconsider. Ms. Raines stated all the plans throughout the United States are similar because they are model produced by the United Nations. Ms. Raines also explained that the surveys are done by Delphi Technique and this is a well known system to get the desired results. Both citizens concluded the comprehensive plan is an expansion of government.
2. Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark stated the Comprehensive Plan is lacking in language that relates to a capitalist society. Also Mr. Clark cautioned Council about citizen's rights and gave examples of citizens having their agricultural exemption removed due to not being able to plant for one season. Mr. Clark also stated he understands that some citizens want the Development Standards Ordinance (DSO) rewritten, and he is opposed to that request.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Tom Ponder, and seconded by Sam Wyche to approve the November 1, 2010 minutes. All voted in favor, with the exception of James London and Jennifer Willis who abstained due to absence.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Presentation of the **Spare the Air Award**. Mr. Rick Caldwell with the Department of Health and Environmental Control came forward to present Pickens County with the 2010

Outstanding Local Government award. The Spare the Air award was given to Pickens County for accomplishments with the Bio-diesel program.

Mr. Hurst took the time to recognize the Solid Waste, Roads and Bridges, as well as the recycling coordinator for all their participation in the bio-diesel project.

2. Mr. Hurst also recognized the Finance Director, Ralph Guarino for being a fifth year in a row winner of the CAFRA award. This award is giving for excellence in financial planning and governance.
3. Mr. Hurst further went through the Pickens County accomplishments which were numerous. Mr. Hurst stated he wanted to take the time to point out how much money has been saved in worker compensation insurance, health and liability. Also noting the programs of success such as the tar and gravel for minimum maintenance roads, and the paving list of county roads with the shoulder widening program for safer travel. Other departments such as the Pickens County Airport and Mile Creek Park have become self sufficient. Mr. Hurst stated that the customer service of departments have also improved, especially at Roads and Bridges. Mr. Hurst stated he wanted Council and the Citizens to know that Pickens County has been able to hold the line on raising taxes, hiring new and old positions, cutting expenses, and still keeping a healthy fund balance. Mr. Hurst reminded citizens that some local governments are facing critical issues because they have not been as forward thinking as the leaders of this County have been in the past and continue to demonstrate. To that end, Mr. Hurst thanked the county council for their ability to make such excellent progress for Pickens County.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Finance Committee- Chairman Smith gave the following report:

The committee of Administration and Finance met in the Board Room at 12:00 Noon on November 8, 2010. All committee members were present with Chairman Smith presiding.

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, County Administrator

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

Allen Coleman, Museum Director

Item	Description	Action
<u>5</u>	Personnel Handbook Retained 12/2009	No action, information only.
<u>34</u>	Rules concerning boards/commission s and volunteers for Pickens County	No action, information only.
<u>35</u>	Request regarding the Rock Art Center	Committee approved \$45,000 for the Rock Art Center. Funds will come from the local accommodations tax. >>motion was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Date of Organizational Meeting in January – Chairman Smith stated with the holiday schedule and people traveling, the January organizational meeting will be Tuesday, January 4th 2011 at 6:30 PM.

Appreciation Plaques to Councilman London and Councilman Crenshaw- Chairman Smith presented Randy Crenshaw with a plaque for his term on County Council. Chairman Smith also presented James London with a plaque for his 10 years of service on Pickens County Council.

Dr. London made several comments relating to his time on Council. Dr. London spoke highly of the work that has been done with the Planning Commission, and informed citizens that good planning is what makes Pickens County a great place to live and work. Dr. London stated he has enjoyed many of the accomplishments that have been complete while he was on Council, and hopes that a forward thinking council will continue.

Randy Crenshaw echoed the statements of Dr. London. Mr. Crenshaw further thanked staff and Council for their support. Mr. Crenshaw stated he has learned much, and enjoyed his tenure.

Tom Ponder asked that citizens and staff be thinking of Sally McGuire, who is a member of the Beautification Committee. Mr. Ponder stated she is a dedicated member, and has recently been in Texas with her son who was injured in Iraq.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:

Ralph Guarino introduced the external auditors for Pickens County, and the audit was presented to County Council in written form with the opinion of a clean audit report. Council was also informed the audit was on-line. Ralph Guarino and his staff were commended for the excellence in finance award, and it was stated this was not an easy award to obtain.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to accept the comprehensive annual financial report.

APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET CALENDAR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011/2012:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the fiscal year budget calendar.

COMMITTEE LOGS FOR CURRENT YEAR- NOT PERTAINING TO ANY ITEM ADDED FOR AGENDA DATE OF DECEMBER 6, 2010:

Council rules state that all items on the committee logs will come off during the December meeting unless otherwise voted on to retain.

- Administration and Finance –Motion was made by Chairman Smith and seconded by Jennifer Willis to retain all log items. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning- Committee log was cleared.
- Justice and Public Safety- Committee log was cleared.
- Public Service-Motion was made by Tom Ponder, Seconded by Chairman Smith to retain all log items. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PACESETTER, INC. DATED ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 29, 2006; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitute a second reading for Ordinance No. 436 to amend the original Fee in Lieu.

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCES NO. 384, 410, 424 AND 433 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading for the ordinance to amend the park agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ISSUANCE BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA JOBS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ITS NOT EXCEEDING \$325,000,000 HOSPITAL REFUNDING AND IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS:

Chairman Smith explained that Palmetto Baptist has published the notice of a public hearing for the issuance of Job Economic Bonds. However, the bonding attorney is requesting that the resolution for bonds be not be voted on tonight, and request that it be tabled. It has been requested for Council to go forth with the public hearing due to the advertisement.

Chairman Smith opened the floor for the public hearing regarding the JEDA bonds. Hearing no comment, the hearing was closed.

- Jennifer Willis moved to table the JEDA bond resolution. Motion received a second from Tom Ponder. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL FOR APPLYING FOR FUNDING UNDER THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis and seconded by Tom Ponder to approve the application for funding under the JAG program.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, and seconded by Sam Wyche to approve the consent agenda.
- Tom Ponder noted that the request for Wells Street was already in his committee log. However, he would like to pull that item for approval due to the fact that staff had already assessed the road and was simply a matter of formality. Mr. Roper stated that due to Mr. Ponder's request, the item would now be separately discussed.
- Tom Ponder moved to pull the Wells Street issue from the consent agenda and approve for minimum maintenance. Motion was given a second by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. \
- Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- Discussion relating to the Pickens Gym-refer to Education, Recreation, Health Welfare, and County Planning.
- Comprehensive Plan-refer to the Committee of the whole
- Intergovernmental agreement for disposal of municipal waste-refer to Public Service Committee
- Puckett Mill Drive and Puckett Mill Way- refer to Public Service Committee

- Request for removing a State road and giving to Pickens County- refer to Public Service Committee
- Request for support of a wellness center- refer to Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by James London, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

- Legal update
- Personnel update
- Legal Issues
- Contractual Issues
- Boards and Commissions

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the Public Session back to order and allowed the following motions.

- 1) Motion was made by Jennifer Willis to provide funds from contingency in the amount of \$42,500.00 for the 1/3 match for a GIS upgrade. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
- 2) Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed to accept the bid from J. Davis Construction in the amount of \$494,441.00 for the airport box hangars.
- 3) Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to provide \$150,000.00 from contingency to the airport for the box hangars.
- 4) Motion was made by Chairman Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to re-appoint Weldon Clark to the Planning Commission.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by James London, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County Council