

January 22, 2013
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 on January 14, 2012.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, V.C. Pro-Tem
Jeff Martin
Trey Whitehurst
Randy Crenshaw

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Absent: Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of January 23, 2013 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis gave 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.

Junius Smith – Mr. Junius Smith spoke about the many legal issues as it relates to the Pickens/Easley rails to trails project. Mr. Smith stated he has attended several meetings including meetings with the Town of Pickens and City of Easley. Mr. Smith stated these projects are expensive to the tax payer, and the trails have proven a nuisance in Greenville County SC with problems of vandalism and theft along the borders.

Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark thanked Council for keeping taxes low, and further stated he appreciated the current sitting Council. Regarding the rails to trails project, Mr. Clark stated it was his understanding that some of the property owners along this trail are owners of the railroad that borders their property due to the fact that once the railroad does not function anymore; the said property reverts back to the citizen. Either way, Mr. Clark agreed this issue has many legal battles.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin to approve the minutes of December 3, 2012 and January 7, 2013. Motion was approved by a unanimous vote with Councilman Randy Crenshaw abstaining from the December 3, 2012 meeting due to him not being on council at that time.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst updated council on the following items.

- 1) Six Mile Fire Department. This department is complete and an open house will be scheduled for February.

- 2) Pickens Fire Department – Parcels of property have been procured for fire stations in Pickens. As previously discussed, one property is on Fox Squirrel Ridge, and one is on Highway 8. Permits are now underway.
- 3) Stormwater Permits - New regulations regarding stormwater permitting is requiring rain gages and a lock box for plans on construction sites. Mr. Hurst stated that staff is reviewing documents and finding out that certain locations that are serviced by weather stations will not require rain gages, but locations in the rural areas will require them. Mr. Hurst stated he will keep council informed as staff learns more about these new regulations. DHEC should be holding a breakfast/lunch meeting in March to address many of these new requirements.
- 4) Rocky Bottom and ISO Ratings- Land has been secured at Rocky Bottom for the fire station. Mr. Hurst stated he will be back to council as this item progresses. Also, Mr. Hurst noted that staff is applying to ISO for an 8 rating instead of a 9.
Regarding ISO rating in general, Mr. Hurst stated there were also issues that need to be worked on as it relates to the actual dispatching of all fire calls. Mr. Hurst stated the way current fire calls are toned out by dispatch has an impact on ISO rating. Mr. Hurst stated he would like to address this further in planning sessions.
- 5) Duke Energy Nuclear Exercise- The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff received the written report from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) relating to the graded nuclear exercise. Mr. Hurst stated the remarks made about the performance of Pickens County were excellent. The EOC staff is now working on exercises that pertain to Pickens County and the safety of the citizens in events such as natural disasters. Technology is also going to be a major factor in future events as Google Earth and other “real time” software can be utilized. Mr. Hurst stated he appreciated the many volunteers that make the EOC a success.
- 6) Mile Creek Park- Grants have been secured at Mile Creek Park for the boat ramp and beautification. Mr. Hurst presented several pictures showing the many improvements at the park.
- 7) Hagood Mill- Grants are secured for the walking trail and bathrooms at the mill. Permits have been approved and these projects will move forward. Work is still being done toward the theater as well.
- 8) Clemson extension –Grants have been secured for healthy lifestyles education. In addition, a naturalist grant has been secured to teach youth about sciences of natural resources. The County funds the extension office, and Mr. Hurst stated he thought it important to let the public know what these agencies are doing in the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Smith gave the following committee assignments.

Administration & Finance

Neil Smith, Chairman
Jennifer Willis
Trey Whitehurst

Education, Rec, Health, Etc.

Trey Whitehurst, Chairman
Tom Ponder
Jeff Martin

Public Service

Tom Ponder, Chairman
Neil Smith
Randy Crenshaw

Public Safety

Randy Crenshaw, Chairman
Jennifer Willis
Jeff Martin

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Planning Session- Chairman Smith stated the planning session for Council has been set for February 8th, 2013 at the Pickens County Airport. The time should be from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

- February 18th, 2013 will be a meeting with Tri-County Technical College. Chairman Smith stated to plan on this meeting beginning at 4:00 PM.
- Council Meetings- Chairman Smith stated council would continue to meet on the first Monday at 6:30 PM. The third Monday would be utilized for committee meetings and/or special business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business.

- Study of Lake Hartwell: Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to add to consent agenda the study of Lake Hartwell. Specifically Mr. Whitehurst requested more knowledge about the Corp of Engineers and building relationships between the Corp and Council. Motion was seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed.
- There was a brief discussion of integrating the lake levels on Lake Keowee; however, it was decided this was a separate issue and was already in committee as the Keowee relicensing project.

QUIT CLAIM DEED REQUEST FOR ANDREW ROAD:

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the request contingent upon the owner building the cul-de-sac as specified.

APPROVAL OF UPDATE TO THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

- Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to approve the updated Solid Waste Management Plan.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 458 TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK OF GREENVILLE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 458.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as approved.
 - Justice and Public Safety: Council Rules and Ethics
 - Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning: Upstate Air Quality Pledge/Resolution of Support.
 - Lake Hartwell/Corp of Engineers study. Education, Recreation, County Planning. (added)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.
 - Boards and Commissions- Fire Districts
 - Legal Update (2)

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and advised the following.

Fire Districts:

- **Central** -Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to re-appoint Allen Crenshaw and appoint Steven Hughes to fill the term of Charles Head

- **Crosswell** – Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed to re-appoint Jeff Lee.
- **Dacusville** – Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to re-appoint of Sam Childers.
- **Easley** – Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to re-appoint of Craig Quillin.
- **Holly Springs** – Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to re-appoint Mary Cribbs.
- **Liberty** – Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed to re-appoint Richard Ricken.
- **Pumpkintown** – Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed to re-appoint William Alexander.
- **Rocky Bottom** – Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed to re-appoint Barry Crayford.
- **Shady Grove-** Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed to re-appoint Bobby Cummins.
- **Six Mile** – Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to re-appoint Gary Ross and Harold Dalton.
- **Vineyards** – Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed to re-appoint Brian Smyth.

Chairman Smith announced the Council/Chairman appointments as follows:

- **ACOG**
Neil Smith
Jeff Martin
- **Alliance Pickens:** Trey Whitehurst – Council appt.
Jennifer Willis – Chairman Appt.
- **GPATS:** *Not appointed to date; however, Jennifer Willis will continue until a decision is made relating to the number of GPAT seats.*

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman