

April 13, 2009
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, April 7, 2009.

Council Members in attendance:

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

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Absent: James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER -

Chairman Smith called the meeting of 4/13/2009 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was given by Councilman Randy Crenshaw.

PUBLIC FORUM:

The Clerk was called upon for the list of citizens signed up for Public Forum.

1. Tom Hendricks-

--Mr. Hendricks had several issues, one being that he had recently complained to the litter officer regarding the newspapers that were left at his home unauthorized. When he complained, the litter officer simply informed him to advise the newspaper. Mr. Hendricks stated the news paper was in violation of littering because he did not subscribe.

--Property near Nine Times should only be purchased by private money if Upstate Forever wants the property. Mr. Hendricks pointed out that if a government entity purchases property, it becomes part of the already 20% of non-taxable property, thus raising taxes for the citizens.

--Mr. Hendricks also cautioned Council about the recent stimulus packages for continuing education and the proposed P – Card. Mr. Hendricks informed Council that he did not think it was correct to use tax payer’s monies for rewarding poor decisions.

--Mr. Hendricks ridiculed the State Legislative Delegation for their proposals in budget cuts, as it raises the taxes of local government. Mr. Hendricks stated the bill which has been introduced by Senator Martin as it relates to the point of sale assessment, was a bill which would cost over eighty teaching positions. Mr. Hendricks called this a “transfer of wealth to the wealthy.”

2. Jerry Sweitzer.

--Mr. Sweitzer thanked members of Council who participated in the Upstate Reality Check seminar.

--Mr. Sweitzer stated that packets are forthcoming about the Vision 2025 Plan, and funding for the plan is being requested.

3. Junius Smith.

--Mr. Smith thanked Council and Administration for the work being done on the roads with the new shoulder machine. Mr. Smith stated this will make the roads much safer.

--Mr. Smith stated he wanted to address the over collection and under estimation of taxes. Mr. Smith stated that the County audit report shows that taxes are over collected; the Conservatives of Pickens County is looking into this as a legal issue.

--Delinquent taxes are not actually delinquent (protested taxes) and it demonstrates less monies collected.

--Currently housing is at a loss of over 20% in value.

--Mr. Smith stated that the people can not afford more taxes, and further stated he and the Conservatives of Pickens are opposed to the programs of education and P-Card stimulus. He stated the education issue is a failure of the School Board, and not the County Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of March 16, 2009

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Service

The Committee of Public Service met in the Board Room at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. Committee Chair, Tom Ponder presided and all Committee Members were present.

Staff:

Chap Hurst, County Administrator

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

Gerald Wilson, Roads and Bridges/ Solid Waste

Item	Description	Action
1	Acceptance of roads in the summit Subdivision	>>Committee moved to accept the roads, Caden Lane and Jonathon Lane into the County road System. (Summit subdivision) >>Council approved
2	Pond Drive for minimum maintenance	>>Committee moved to accept for minimum maintenance. >>Council approved
3	Study Laurel Ridge	>>Committee moved to accept for minimum maintenance, contingent upon staff determining proper homeowner association/bylaws as well as ownership of the road. The committee was informed of a resident who did not want to sign a right of way. If all paperwork and right of ways are in order; staff may add to the minimum maintenance list.

			>>>Will come back to council with more information.
4	Study road system prescriptive easements/right of ways		No action, staff and committee will have further study.
5	Study grant project for north plant loan/grant incentives		Information only, council will proceed in the budget amendment process for the north plant project. (3/16/09)
6	Road Paving List 2009-2010		>>Committee accepted the 2009-2010 paving list, and included Old Stage Coach Road. With one addition, the list was approved as amended. >>Council approved

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst updated Council on the following issues.

---Workshops – April 15, 2009 at Easley City Hall- Stormwater workshops for best management practices. Mr. Hurst stated this was a good program for grading contractors and engineers to be more familiar with stormwater programs.

---Neighborhood clean-ups are underway, also electric lawn mowers, and shredders are being made available to citizens for earth day and various anti-litter campaigns. Also e-waste will be at all recycling centers.

--Pickens County has been approached by the WorkLink organization regarding a Summer Youth Program. This is a program for low-income youth. The youth will be working for 3 days a week and will be trained. The WorkLink organization will be providing transportation as well as paying the youth. Many of these are being looked at for future programs with the County.

--Clean up programs are doing well in (3) different neighborhoods.

--Sewer grant for school district seems to be successful, more information will be forthcoming and the sewer on Highway 123 will be positive for economic development.

>>Regarding the neighborhood clean up, Councilman Ponder expressed concern about the open containers within the neighborhoods. Mr. Ponder stated that private companies take full advantage of those containers being available.

Mr. Hurst stated he thought the containers are far enough in the neighborhood so that they can be watched.

Mr. Ponder stated he does not have an issue with the clean ups, but he does have a problem with filling the landfill when we do not have permits for a new one. Mr. Ponder stated that too many commercial citizens take advantage of these open containers.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith informed Council of the upcoming dates for budget work session and also announcing the Azalea Festival.

Budget Work sessions April 14, 28, 30 – 6:30 pm

Azalea Festival, April 17, 2009

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

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

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PRESENTATION:

Steve Pelissier offered Council material as it relates to numerous services that the Appalachian Council has provided. Many items were listed such as successful grants, Telecommunications Master Plan, Property Navigator, Census preparation, and various publications. Mr. Pelissier stated these services have assisted the region and have more than compensated the initial investment. Mr. Pelissier stated that he would accommodate Council with a detailed work session if requested.

Council thanked Mr. Pelissier and some discussion was held regarding future training for open meeting laws and other requirements of boards and commissions.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 420 FY 2009/2010 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitute the first reading of Ordinance No. 420, FY 2009/2010 Budget Ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 419, TO AMEND FY 2008/2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for public hearing as it relates to Ordinance No. 419. Hearing no comment, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing.

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed that this constitute a second reading of Ordinance No. 419 an FY 2008/2009 budget amendment.

APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION TO PROCLAIM APRIL AS PICKENS COUNTY CLEAN UP MONTH:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche to approve the proclamation for April to be litter awareness month. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION TO PROCLAIM APRIL 12 – 18 AS PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Randy Crenshaw to approve the week of April 12 – 18 as telecommunications week. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the Consent agenda as presented.

*Employee Handbook- Administration and Finance Committee

*P-Card Stimulus plan – Administration and Finance Committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

--Boards and Commissions

--Economic Development

--Tourism Board

--Grievance Committee

--Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee

(other board appointments as needed)

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Boards and Commission:

Grievance Committee –Jennifer Willis moved to amend resolution 99-13 to state that the Council will not appoint members of this committee, and staff will appoint employees as needed. Tom Ponder seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

Tourism Committee – Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder moved to appoint Jeff Martin to the tourism committee. All members voted in favor.

Anderson, Oconee, Pickens Mental Health Board—Jennifer Willis moved for a new appointment of Alan Hendricks, and reappointment of Robert Nash and Steve Coleman. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Board of Assessment and Appeals- Jennifer Willis moved for a new appointment of Dean Thomas, and the reappointment of Carl Watkins, Lew Jordon, Allen Holloway, and Robert Pilgrim. Tom Ponder seconded and all voted in the affirmative.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County Council