

**\*\*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.**

May 1, 2006  
Regular Meeting  
7:00 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, April 26, 2006.

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

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 May 1, 2006 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation was given by Councilman Tom Ponder

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 17, 2006- Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the minutes as presented.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

**1. Subject- Browns Grading, Grinding and Utilities.**

Citizens of Morgan Drive, Karla Williams, Danny Finley, and Terry Williams came before Council for assistance regarding a mulch business named Browns Grading, Grinding, and Utilities that has moved in adjacent to their neighborhood. The citizens sited many violations of the Development Standards Ordinance which stated this business was out of compliance and should not have been permitted. The citizens stated the smell, pollution, and noise was extremely disturbing. Council was asked to look into this issue and make this business move out of this area or comply.

**2. Subject- Property tax code, and Love & Care Road.**

Junius Smith came before council to speak of the issues of SC 208 property tax code. Mr. Smith stated this was a very complex law, but warned council to watch the court cases involving other counties regarding reassessment. Mr. Smith also stated a death

had occurred on Love & Care Road due to the high shoulders he spoke about at a previous meeting.

Mr. Smith represents a group entitled Citizens Against Reassessment and Sales Tax.

**3. Subject – Pumpkintown Fire District.**

Citizens, Rhonda Billingsley, Corie Whaley, and Alex Saitta, came before Council to relay concerns they had as citizens of the Pumpkintown Fire District. Citizens informed Council of illegal and improper meetings of the Board of Governors, the resignation of the fire chief, and then the firemen not accepting the resignation and reinstating the fire chief. Budgets and inflated expenses were a major concern. The citizens ask that Council look closely at the upcoming budget. Also citizens were concerned of pay for a volunteer fire chief, which would also be proposed in the budget.

>>During Council discussion, Tom Ponder voiced much concern about the fire district at Pumpkintown. Mr. Ponder stated his committee would be meeting to discuss bylaws and other issues, and the fire districts would need to comply. Mr. Ponder recommended the Board begin running the department to the satisfaction of the majority, or Council would have to assist.

Councilman Smith echoed Mr. Ponder's comments and further stated that he appreciated the manner and the presentation of the citizens as they spoke with council about various issues.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- **Public Service Committee- Committee Chairman Roy Collins gave the following report:**

The Committee met in the Main Conference Room with Committee Chairman Roy Collins presiding, all committee members were in attendance.

Staff:

- Ralph Guarino, Interim County Administrator
- Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
- Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
- Olivia Vassey, Research Analyst
- Bo Beauchemin, Roads and Bridges Director
- Curtis Burgess, Engineering
- William Nicholas, Environmental Services

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b><u>Referred</u></b>	<b>Report</b>
<b>9</b>	Request from citizens on Mountaindale Road regarding the entrance of Mountaindale Road.	03/20/06	Committee recommends for staff to move forward with engineering and cost proposals.
<b>10</b>	Ballard Hill Road -	04/03/06	Staff will assess the most efficient means for Ballard Hill Road regarding bridges, and gather further information regarding water issues within the area.
<b>11</b>	Consider approval of preliminary engineering report for Roper Wastewater Treatment Upgrade.	04/03/06	Committee recommends approval of Option II. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modify existing sludge basin for flow equalization</li> <li>• Construct new 600,000 gpd wastewater</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• package plant in existing aeration basin</li> <li>• Tertiary filtration</li> <li>• Ultraviolet disinfection system</li> <li>• Project cost estimated at \$2,920,000</li> </ul> <p>Finance Director is working with State Revolving fund for funding.</p> <p>&gt;&gt;Council unanimously approved.</p>
<b>12</b>	Request from the City of Clemson for paving and overlay for fiscal year 2005/2006.	04/17/06	<p>Committee recommends approval of the paving list submitted for 2005/06.</p> <p>Council unanimously approved.</p>
<b>13</b>	Receive information regarding the old Central Road Bridge.	04/17/06	<p>Committee recommends to move forward with securing right of ways, and authorize the consulting engineer to move forward with bids; information will be brought back to full council.</p> <p>Council unanimously approved.</p>

**Administration and Finance Committee.** Chairman Willis gave the following report.

<b>11</b>	Quarterly payments of property taxes  1 <sup>st</sup> reading 02/06/06	02/06/06	<p>Committee recommends second reading and back to full council.</p> <p>Council unanimously approved</p>
<b>12</b>	Request from the Pickens County Recreation Committee to reallocate funds to the Six Mile Recreation Committee for a Tractor, Lawn Reels, and Sprayer.	03/20/06	<p>Committee recommends approval.</p> <p>Council unanimously approved.</p>
<b>13</b>	Request from the Town of Central for (2) surplus patrol vehicles. To include other request from municipalities.	03/20/06	<p>Committee recommends the circulation of a list of the surplus to municipalities and fire districts to see if there are needs.</p> <p>Council unanimously approved.</p>
<b>14</b>	Policy to determine needs for computer monitors per County Departments. Also issue with the Clerk of Court and a request for monitors.	04/03/06	<p>No action, committee did not have time for this item.</p>
<b>15</b>	Study the issues of the Medical Indigent Assistance Program (MIAP)	04/03/06	<p>Committee was updated regarding that Pickens County was out of compliance as they did not have a designee to handle the applications from the hospitals. Committee recommends requesting an individual to act as the designee for the next 60 days in order to catch</p>

			<p>up the standing applicants; process will then be discussed during the budget sessions.</p> <p>Council unanimously approved.</p>
16	2006 accommodations tax requests	04/03/06	<p>Committee recommends the accommodations tax with the exception of moving \$2,850.00 from the Easley chambers and giving the \$2850 to the Hagood Mauldin House.</p> <p>&gt;&gt;committee recommendation passed with all members voting in favor with the exception of Roy Collins who opposed and Chairman Willis who abstained.</p>

The Committee met in the Main Conference Room, May 1, 2006 at 5:00 PM with Committee Chairman Willis presiding, all committee members were in attendance. Also Council Members Roy Collins and Ben Trotter.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Additions to the agenda.**

>>Roy Collins moved to add to the executive session the appointment to the Recreation Board and Public Service Commission. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

>>Ben Trotter moved to add to the executive session the appointment to the Accommodations Tax Board. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

>>Tom Ponder moved to add to the executive session a Personnel Issue. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

**FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CHANGES FOR PICKENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2005 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2006:**

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Roy Collins that this constitutes first reading of a budget amendment ordinance.

Mr. Smith stated he would like to be provided with explanations for the amendments.

Mr. Guarino went over some of the appropriations and sited the majority like the prison, magistrate's court, and finance were due to employee status changes which resulted in insurance changes and vacation pay outs. Also sited was the fact of claims from the prison which result in hospital bills. Mr. Guarino also stated other appropriations were involving fuel cost.

Mr. Smith stated the fuel was a difficult issue for him, and he would like to see where the solutions were and how the County is conserving. Roy Collins also stated he would like to know where we are trying to conserve.

>>Motion failed with Neil Smith, Roy Collins and Ben Trotter opposing. Chairman Willis, James London and Tom Ponder voted in the affirmative.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 374 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF THE FORMER EASLEY LIBRARY BUILDING AND PROPERTY LOCATED IN EASLEY, SOUTH CAROLINA AT 110 WEST FIRST AVENUE:**

Chairman Willis opened the floor for public comment regarding Ordinance No. 374 to authorize the sale of the former Easley Library. With no comments, Public Hearing was closed.

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed that this constitutes the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 374.

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 377, TO IDENTIFY FLOOD PRONE AREAS WITHIN PICKENS COUNTY, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE PLACEMENT OF WARNING SIGNS IN SUCH AREAS:**

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes the Third and final reading of Ordinance No. 377.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Neil Smith moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

The following items were approved via consent.

- a. Consideration from the City of Pickens to use Road User Fee Funds to provide for guardrails. Refer to the Public Service Committee.
- b. Consideration of Request from Pickens County School District to assist with paving at RC Edwards Middle School Athletic Track. Refer to the Public Service Committee.
- c. Proposal from Eastern Aviation Fuels, Inc. re. Pickens County Airport. Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated items.

- Appointments: Public Safety Committee
- Appointments added to agenda: Recreation Committee, Accommodations Tax Committee, and Public Service Commission.
- Personnel Issues, also added was another personnel issues.

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

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

- Appointments to the Public Safety Committee.

>>Neil Smith moved to appoint Fred Anthony, Ed Reynolds, Joel Parsons, Dot Trotter, and Phil Black to the Public Safety Advisory Board. Motion was seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed.

- Appointment to the Accommodations Tax Board.

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to appoint Amy Barrett to the Accommodations Tax Committee.

- Appointment to the Recreation Committee.

>>Motion was made by Roy Collins and seconded by Neil Smith to re-appoint Jim Dixon to the Recreation Committee. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- Appointment to the Public Service Committee.

>>Motion was made by James London, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to appoint Paul West to the Public Service Committee.

**ADJOURN:**

With no further business before the Pickens County Council, motion to adjourn was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 10:03 PM.

**Respectively Submitted:**

**Approved:**

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**Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council**

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**Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman**