

August 18, 2008
Regular Council Meeting
6:00 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, August 12, 2008

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Ben L. Trotter, Vice Chairman
Tom E. Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
James B. London
Jennifer H. Willis

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of August 18, 2008 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was also led by Chairman Smith.

PUBLIC FORUM:

1. Junius Smith- Mr. Smith thanked staff for assuring him about the fire district issue and providing him with a map. Mr. Smith also spoke against the proposed Development Standards Ordinance and he spoke against the fact that the Auditor's office could set the tax rate on trucks and cars based on fair market value. Mr. Smith stated that the vehicles are simply not worth what the books say they are, and if one is a good negotiator they may be able to obtain another rate. Mr. Smith concluded by stating he would like the tax issue checked into.
2. Dan Winchester- Mr. Winchester spoke regarding the Development Standards Ordinance. Mr. Winchester stated the document was supposed to be a work in progress and should be a more user friendly document. Mr. Winchester stated that Council should make changes as recommended or think about reverting back to the ordinance which was in place prior to 304.
3. Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark spoke on several issues of which he disagreed with the final document of the Development Standards Ordinance. He stated the ordinance needs to protect development and protect the freedom of citizens using their own property as they see fit.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder and seconded by Ben Trotter to approve the minutes of July 21, 2008. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning.

- Committee Chairman, Randy Crenshaw moved to bring out of his committee for a first reading an ordinance to allow the winery to open on Sunday for wine tasting. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. Ordinance will remain in committee until second reading.

Public Service:

- Committee Chairman Tom Ponder gave the following report:

The Public Service Committee met on August 5, 2008 at 6:30 PM with Committee Chairman Tom Ponder presiding. All members of the committee were in attendance. Council Member Ben Trotter was also in attendance.

Staff:

Chap Hurst, County Administrator
 Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
 Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
 Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
 Gerald Wilson, Solid Waste
 Lou Holder, Recycling

Item	Description	Referred	Action
15	Bio Diesel project	07/21/08	>>Committee recommends to move forward with the Bio Diesel Project with option A as recommended by Staff. >Council approved
16	Request for road shoulder improvement equipment	07/21/08	>>Committee recommends to purchase the shoulder maintenance machine. Amount of purchase is approximately \$76,000 >Council approved
17	Road Paving List	07/21/08	>>Committee approved the paving list as submitted and informed staff to review the private roads. >Council approved

Administration and Finance:

- Chairman Smith gave the following report:

The Administration and Finance Committee met on August 5, 2008 following the Public Service Committee, Chairman Smith presided, and all members of the committee were in attendance. Council Member Ben Trotter was also in attendance.

Staff:

Chap Hurst, County Administrator
 Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
 Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
 Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Item	Description	Referred	Report	Action

63	Family Readiness Request for funding – National Guard	07/21/08		>>Committee recommends funding at \$2,000, contingent upon a financial statement relating to expenditures; motion also included this item being a budget request to council with all the required documents like other requesting agencies. >>council approved
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Administrator’s Report:

Mr. Hurst reported to Council on the following issues:

1. COOP Plan. The county has contracted with EnviroSafe to develop a County wide plan for events of abnormal situations such as a natural disaster or a pandemic flu. This plan will assist in how the county will continue to function and how services will continue in the event the county was unable to operate from the facility. The table top exercise will be Sept. 4, 2008
2. Government Day. Pickens County will have its second annual Government Day on October 2, 2008 from 4:00-7:00 PM at Legacy Square in Pickens. Mr. Hurst stated this Government Day will have food, music, and booths. Also the shredding truck will be available for citizens and businesses to have documents shredded. Mr. Hurst also commented about the popularity of the shedding truck.
3. Animal control - Mr. Hurst stated the Spay and Neuter clinics are continuing to be successful. Mr. Hurst stated all efforts are focused to lower the number of animals that are destroyed each year and increase the number of animals that are adopted. Council was informed of new rescue groups and internet pictures. Humane society also will install air conditioning for more comfort. Also the website will feature pictures of animals that are ready for adoption.
4. Whispering Pines - Grant funds to repair 10 man holes in Whispering Pines are available and to evaluate the conditions of the lines to have a clearer picture of the whole sewer system.
5. Oconee Nuclear exercise- Mr. Hurst informed Council that on April 1, 2008, Pickens County held their annual exercise along with Oconee County for the Nuclear Plant. Pickens County received a letter from the Office of Adjutant General stating that Pickens County demonstrated no inefficiencies. Mr. Hurst stated much praise for an excellent job and stated it is not often that a team performs well enough to get a letter.
6. Taxes- Tax Assessor, David Day found many citizens who have not taken advantage of the 4% taxes and were still paying the 6%. Letters were sent out and citizens were assisted in getting their taxes down. Mr. Hurst stated this had been largely due to the new website in the assessor’s office. Mr. Hurst also stated over 1,700 letters went out.
7. Air Quality – DHEC met with Mayors and Administrators across the County to discuss the Air Quality issues, and to communicate and coordinate better with all concerned. The monitor is still slated to come down in October.
8. Cemetery preservation committee. The preservation meeting was August 5, 2008, and the committee plans to meet again on September 4, 2008. They will continue working to sign and locate these cemeteries in a proper way.
9. Quail Haven plan – The grant at Quail Haven has been approved for picnic tables, and other items. The maintenance plan is being submitted to the planning commission for final review.

10. Airport construction meeting- Mr. Hurst stated that meetings were ongoing at the airport as it relates to the terminal. Also Council was informed of a letter from the airport as it relates to the requested new hangars.
11. Crosswell Fire District – Mr. Hurst stated that the county has submitted a plan to DHEC and permits should be issued this week for building to begin.
12. New Voter Registration Director --Rodney Allen was introduced to Council as the new Voter Registration Director. Council welcomed Mr. Allen.
13. Recent County Retirees' – Mr. Hurst gave certificates of retirement to Judy Wood, Ruth Gilstrap, and Calvin Gilstrap. Council congratulated them on their retirement.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS

1. Recreation funding for a property in District 3. Ben Trotter moved to add this issue to the agenda, Tom Ponder seconded the motion. Chairman Smith stated if anyone was opposed this issue would automatically go to a committee. All voted in favor with the exception of James London who opposed.

Chairman Smith issued the subject to committee. (see consent)

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 405 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 404 TO CHANGE THE FIRE DISTRICT LINES IN CENTRAL AND SIX MILE.

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve a third and final reading of Ordinance no. 405.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 406 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,800,000) FOR THE SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT:

Chairman Smith called the public hearing into order and asked if any citizens wanted to speak as it relates to Ordinance No. 406. With no one speaking, Chairman Smith closed and allowed a motion.

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 406.

Consent Agenda:

Refer to Administration and Finance –camping fees

Refer to the Education, recreation, and County Planning Committee the request to purchase property in Pickens for recreation purposes.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith asked for a motion to adjourn, motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman