

June 01, 2009
Regular Council Meeting
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Vice Chairman Jennifer Willis presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media, May 27, 2009.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
Sam Wyche

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Absent:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Tom Ponder

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator/EMS Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Willis called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Wyche gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by James London to approve the minutes of May 18, 2009. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. note- absence of Councilman Wyche and Vice Chairman Willis from the May 18th meeting.

BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES – PRESENTATION AND FUNDING \$10,000 MATCHING FUNDS:

Mr. Jon Humphries came to council to discuss the Big League Baseball World Series schedule for the summer of 2009, which is a non profit organization and is held in August of every year in Easley South Carolina. Mr. Humphries stated these games get local and international media coverage for the whole week that they play, and for baseball fans, these teams represent the best of each category. This years kick off begins July 28, 2009 with a concert and the championship game will be August 5, 2009 at 8:00 PM instead of earlier in the afternoon. Mr. Humphries stated people from everywhere come to these games and that many citizens volunteer time and talent in order for this to be a massive and successful event. Mr. Humphries concluded by saying that this event has a huge impact for Pickens County and that all contributions are greatly appreciated.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to allow the \$10,000 for Big League Baseball World Series, with the challenge that they will match with other business contributions as was the protocol for last year. This funding will come out of FY 2008/09 contingency.

PUBLIC FORUM- (welcoming budget comments prior to third reading of June 15th 2009)

Mrs. Willis stated that citizens were encouraged to speak about the FY 2009/2010 budget even though the next agenda would be the formal public hearing. It was Council's intent to give everyone an opportunity to speak prior to the third reading.

Ben Trotter- Mr. Trotter thanked Council for working hard on a very difficult budget, Mr. Trotter requested that Council consider the funding for the free Medical Clinic. Mr. Trotter stated that many in Pickens County depended on this worthy organization.

Mrs. Willis called upon the Clerk for a list of citizens who have signed up for other reasons.

Animal Control Issues- Debbie Traver and Tina Propper – Both citizens came to Council about needs to improve the animal control in Pickens County. Ms. Traver and Ms. Propper were not affiliated with each other, but both came to council with stories and comments as it relates to mistreatment of animals as well as the way the magistrates office has dismissed or ignored cases of inhumane treatment of animals. Ms. Traver stated that animal were euthanized without proper sedatives, and she would like to know where those sedatives were, she also stated that the employees were not mandated for drug testing. Both citizens asked Council to take the opportunity to improve the conditions of facilities, as well as research the methods that are currently in place as it relates to staff.

Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark stated he would like to know the total number of citizens that participated in the recent Education Program. Mr. Clark stated he attended, and he observed a successful turnout.

Ray Steck – Mr. Steck stated that the Cliff's Communities had recently held an auction which in one night raised over \$65,000 for the Children's Outreach. Mr. Steck stated all these proceeds go directly to helping disadvantaged children. Mr. Steck stated this was a successful event largely because of the residents from the Vineyards, Springs, and within the surrounding valley community. He asked that Council thank these citizens for their generous contributions.

Sam Wyche- Councilman Wyche asked to take the podium and be recognized as a citizen as he thanked Council for the huge success of the Education/Workforce renewal program which was recently held at the Rosewood center in Liberty. Mr. Wyche stated about 150 citizens signed up to receive their GED; 199 signed up for Quick Jobs, and the participation count went over 400. Mr. Wyche thanked staff, especially Olivia Vassey, as well as the media from news channel 4 and channel 7 for the great coverage for this project.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst spoke to Council about the following issues and events.

*Road Shoulder Program- Mr. Hurst gave Council pictures to view as it shows the shoulder work that has been complete on county roads in order to make the roads safer. Mr. Hurst also gave Council a list of striping that will be complete on roads, also for safety.

*Waste Management- Will not have an increase this budget year.

*E-911 funds- were recently refunded to the county and the funds will pay for equipment that is necessary for the E-911.

*Duke Energy is contributing funding for the first floating restrooms which will be placed on Lake Keowee. This will be complete in about 90 Days.

*Ground Breaking for Tri Tech, which is a new industry in Pickens County, This will be June 12, 2009

*Mr. Hurst concluded by commenting about some of the statements made by Ms. Traver as it relates to animal control. Mr. Hurst stated that during the month of May alone, the office of animal control had responded to over 900 calls in the month of May, and 9000 calls in the last 5 months total. These pertain to dogs, cats, opossums, deer, squirrels, and horses. Mr. Hurst stated this is a very small department and while he is always open to improvement, he wanted to say that the animals do have sedatives which are used when they are euthanized, and many improvements have been made to the buildings. Also the animals are fed and watered everyday. Mr. Hurst also pointed out that staff has begun a very successful weekly spay and neuter program, as well as an adoption process, both of which are outside the responsibility of animal control. Mr. Hurst stated that he would be willing to work with anyone and to make improvements as budgets would allow.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for new business.

add to agenda:

- Jennifer Willis moved to pull item number 14 from the Administration Committee and add to the agenda as it relates to the grant process of propane conversion for vehicles. Motion was seconded by James London and unanimously passed.
- Randy Crenshaw moved to add to the agenda the issues of transferring funds from the Springs Fire District budget to the Vineyard Fire District in order to offset labor issues. Motion was seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed.
- Sam Wyche moved to add a personnel issue in executive session. Motion was seconded by James London and unanimously passed.
- James London moved to add to committee the issues of the humane society and animal adoptions. Motion was seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed. Referred to the Public Safety Committee.

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

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of the FY 2009/2010 budget. Dr. London commented that this has been a difficult budget and some things were not in the budget that should be, but also noted that council has frozen positions and also made other difficult decisions.

GRANT APPROVAL PROCESS OF PROPANE CONVERSION FOR VEHICLE:

Mr. Hurst informed Council that funding was available through grants to satisfy the needs for these vehicles to be converted. Mr. Hurst stated this not only saves money but also proves that Pickens County is trying to satisfy all clean air quality requirements.

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to approve the grant application.

TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET TO THE VINEYARD FIRE DISTRICT IN ORDER TO OFFSET LABOR ISSUES.

Mr. Hurst explained this was discussed at the last work session of Council, and the funding needs to be transferred so the Vineyards can pay the personnel.

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by James London, and unanimously passed to approve the transfer of \$24,000 to the Vineyards for labor purposes of the personnel at the Springs.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

Guidance-boards and commissions- Administration and Finance

Ethics training – Administration and Finance

Garbage reduction recycling review- Public Service

Added from motion period- Humane Society and Animal Adoption- Public Safety

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Boards and Commissions

Water Authority

Tourism Board

Tri-County Technical College

(other boards nominations as needed)

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Water Authority- Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Sam Wyche moved to reappoint John Rudolph and Harry Wilson to the Water Authority.

Tourism Board- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to appoint Janelle Montgomery to the Tourism Board.

Tri-County Technical College- Motion was made by James London, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to appoint George Acker to the Tri-County Technical College Board.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further motions, Chairman Willis asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
Pickens County