

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
June 15, 2015
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Jennifer Willis presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media on June 5, 2015.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman
Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
G. Neil Smith
Randy Crenshaw
Ensley Feemster

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Willis called the meeting of June 15, 2015 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Randy Crenshaw was called upon to lead the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Willis stated she would call upon the Clerk to Council for a list of citizens who have signed up for public forum. Ms. Willis did state that she was going to utilize this public forum as a time for Council to hear from citizens. She was not going to allow elected officials to use this forum as a platform to illustrate their differences with County Council.

- 1) Pree Hamilton- Ms. Hamilton came before Council and requested any further funding for the Humane Society would be greatly appreciated. Ms. Hamilton as always thanked Council and County Staff for their continued assistance. Ms. Hamilton stated the new director of the Humane Society has done a wonderful job in reorganizing the shelter and cleaning it up.
- 2) Roy Stoddard, Mayor of Six Mile, SC-Mayor Stoddard thanked the Council for the June 6, 2015 Medal of Honor Recipients ceremony and events. Mayor Stoddard pointed out this would not have happened without the vision of County Council. Mr. Stoddard also stated that Helen Hockwalt was the project manager on this task and did a wonderful job. This was a huge event, and it was a real success. Mayor Stoddard stated that Helen had recently been quoted in the newspaper as stating this was a preservation of history. Mr. Stoddard said he completely agreed, and concluded by stating that as a long serving military man, he was deeply touched by what Council did for Pickens County's Medal of Honor Recipients.
- 3) Junius Smith- Mr. Smith stated that he was not pleased with the Greenville News article regarding that Pickens County Council had in some way damaged economic development in Pickens County. Mr. Smith stated the article was bias and insulting. Mr. Smith stated this Council has held taxes for ten years, and further pointed out he appreciated the remarks of Councilman Tom Ponder regarding the fact that Pickens County does not have the infrastructure of larger counties.

On another topic, Mr. Smith stated that by law a public employee or official cannot gain financially from his or her position. Mr. Smith stated that judges are ruling on issues that he believes are not legal, and he believes the citizens are becoming more concerned that they have little representation.

- 4) Johnnelle Raines- Ms. Raines concurred with Junius Smith regarding the article in the Greenville News. Ms. Raines stated she thought the article was clearly about private business wanting funds from Pickens County. Ms. Raines said she was proud of County Council for the work they have done in this County because if she wanted to live in Greenville, Columbia, Spartanburg, or Atlanta then she would move. Ms. Raines stated people choose to live in areas that best suit their lifestyle. Ms. Raines concluded by encouraging Council to keep leading in the way they have, as it is clear that Pickens County does not have the high taxes of the surrounding counties.
On another topic, Ms. Raines stated she understands there are issues such as litter and other nuisances on the newly opened Duddle Trail. She asked for Council to find out if property owners have been asked to keep their animals 15ft from the trail, and also are any personnel enforcing litter issues.
- 5) Rodney Allen, Pickens County Elections Director- Mr. Allen came before Council to request full funding for the Elections temporary employee fund. Mr. Allen stated he needed this employee for the 2016 elections. Mr. Allen stated he could not conduct these elections without providing the additional staff that is already trained in using GIS software, knowledge of the technical issues of voting equipment, and various State mandates that go along with an election. Mr. Allen stated currently he has been funded 30% less than he requested, and he needs his request funded at the full \$30,000. Mr. Allen thanked Council for this opportunity to speak.
- 6) Kandy Kelly- Ms. Kelly was called upon, but she withdrew and stated she was unaware that she was not allowed to speak prior to signing up.
- 7) Eleanor Hare- Ms. Hare stated she has attended the Voter Registration and Elections Board meetings as much as possible. Ms. Hare stated her displeasure regarding the funding level for additional staff for the 2015/2016 budget. Ms. Hare quoted State law as it relates to the responsibility of the Elections Director to hire and manage staff. Ms. Hare stated there are only two people in the office of Elections and the director realizes the office will need additional resources for the upcoming elections. Ms. Hare stated the Council has decreased line items in this budget which is opposite of what the director has advised. Ms. Hare concluded by stating it appears the Council is not adhering to the professional recommendations of the director, and has delegated themselves to have operational control.
- 8) Janie Shipley- Ms. Shipley, President of the League of Women Voters of the Clemson Area stated the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed participation regarding public policy. Ms. Shipley stated that voting is a fundamental right that must be guaranteed. Access to the Elections Office is imperative to ensure that citizens are informed and prepared to vote. The current problem is a disagreement between the Council and the recommendation of the Elections Board and Director as to the needs for personnel in the upcoming year. Ms. Hare further stated there is a 2014 memorandum of understanding that prohibits the Board of Elections from seeking funding from other resources. In conclusion, Ms. Shipley stated the League is concerned about a negative impact for the rights of voters to a fair and well organized election as well as proper access to the Elections office.

- 9) Philip “Rusty” Smith- Mr. Smith made comments regarding the Elections issue by stating it may be a “pick your battle” issue in light of the fact the same people who are advocating for extra money in personnel are also requesting \$35,000 to redistrict for the School Board. On other topics, Mr. Smith wanted to take an opportunity to also dispute the Greenville News article as it depicted County Council as not providing economic development. Mr. Smith pointed out how Council had brought opportunity for the citizens of Pickens County. He addressed Chairman Willis and her work with the Big League World Series, Councilman Tom Ponder and the Dacusville Community Center, and Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst for the public recreation at Southern Wesleyan. Also realizing that Councilman Randy Crenshaw and Councilman Ensley Feemster had also participated with funding for those projects. Mr. Smith stated there is no end to what the Liberty Auditorium is going to provide for economic development, and he thanked Councilman Neil Smith for this vision and the resources for this project. In conclusion, Mr. Smith noted that in the Easley area were eighty new businesses and 30 new restaurants. Therefore, the Greenville News was very bias in their reporting of Economic Development.
- 10) Bill Johnston-Mr. Johnston stated he was one of the motorcycle riders that participated in the June 6, 2015 Medal of Honor dedication and celebration. Mr. Johnston stated he was honored to be a part of this, and thanked Council and Helen Hockwalt for doing such a great job.
- 11) Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark asked the County Attorney to share any ordinances he has regarding the shooting ranges. Mr. Clark stated he had some simplistic views of shooting ranges and gave the example that when a person follows common rules they are safe. On another topic- Mr. Clark stated he agreed with the previous citizens that disagreed with the Greenville News article by saying that Pickens County is not doing well with Economic Development. Mr. Clark stated there was a lot of economic value in living in Pickens County, because it is a great place to live.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of May 4, 2015 regular meeting, May 11, 2015 special called, and May 22, 2015 special called.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Guarino informed Council and the public of the following items.

Magistrate Building Update: Mr. Guarino stated the magistrates’ building in Liberty is coming along as expected. The lighting/electrical, sheetrock, and ceilings are installed. Tiles and carpet will begin later this week and will be a 2-3 week project. Mr. Guarino stated the expected dates for moving are last week of August, and opening the new building the week of September 8, 2015. Mr. Guarino stated the Chief Magistrate is working with the State and local officials on all location changes.

Discussion of Elections Budget and Local Government Fund:

Councilman Neil Smith asked Mr. Guarino about the Elections Commission since there was interest from the public. Mr. Guarino stated it was his understanding that the Elections are a State responsibility. Mr. Smith stated that he would like the public to understand that the State has cut the funding dramatically and the citizens are left thinking that items are a County responsibility; however, the County is trying to keep services open but not getting any funding from the State. Therefore, he hopes the citizens will request funding from the State Representatives.

Mr. Smith also stated the Elections budget was actually increased. Mr. Guarino concurred the overall budget was increased for the Elections. Further, the funding for the temporary position was not cut, it was

left at the same level as the 2012 elections cycle. The request was not fully funded. Mr. Guarino stated he received \$6.7 million of request that were not funded.

Chairman Willis made the point to the public that the Local Government Fund is the fund that the State is supposed to give to the counties for State services; this fund is set up so services can conveniently be provided in each county. However, for about 7 years this fund has been cut by \$1.6 million, and Pickens County is still trying to provide these services without having tax increases. Both Ms. Willis and Mr. Smith also stated to the public that they should educate themselves about the Roads and Bridges issues. Mr. Smith stated the State wants each county to take over the State roads and bridges. Ms. Willis stated to replace a substandard bridge is a cost estimate of \$2-5million.

Mr. Smith stated his frustration is the public comes to the County for a solution, but no one goes to the Legislative Delegation to solicit answers.

Mr. Ponder informed the public that Pickens County is not the only county enduring this frustration. Every County in South Carolina was dealing with this issue. However, Pickens County is different in that we still provide services and buildings for State departments and we have not raised taxes. Mr. Ponder stated that people should go to the annual meeting and get some answers. Mr. Ponder also challenged the media to start educating the public about the Local Government Fund.

Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst also pointed out that the County has a \$20.00 road fee, and this fee has been utilized for replacement of all county bridges and fixing roads. It is important for citizens and the media to realize that Pickens County is doing their job.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1) Administration and Finance- Chairman Willis gave the following report:

The Administration and Finance Committee met in the Main Conference Room at 10:00 a.m. on May 8, 2015 in the Pickens Administration Facility building with Chairman Willis presiding and all Committee Members in attendance. Councilman Neil Smith and Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst.

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Guest:

Wes Hulse, Hulse McCormick & Wallace

Log Item No. 61- Twelve Mile River:

No action Committee traveled to various areas in Pickens County to view river access areas.

>>Mr. Smith commented this meeting was essential in getting a better perspective of what the trustees wanted on the Twelve Mile River, and the committee is trying to secure the funds that were set aside for various projects.

- 2) Committee of the Whole - Chairman Willis gave the following report:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room, Pickens County Administration Facility on Monday May 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. Chairman Willis presided and all Committee Members were in attendance with the exception of Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst.

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Gerald Wilson, Public Works Director

Item	Description	Referred	Action
31	RFQ- Engineering and Architects	05/06/2015	<u>Engineering Services:</u> >Committee recommends Staff to negotiate contract with Hulsey McCormick & Wallace for Wastewater & Solid Waste. >Committee recommends Staff to negotiate contract with W.K. Dickson for the Airport. Committee will further look at Storm water and Economic Development needs. <u>Architect Services :</u> >Committee recommends for Staff go back out for R.F.Q. Retain in the Committee >>Council Approved
32	Communication and Public Relations	05/06/2015	Committee requested Staff to obtain a job description and salary range for a Communication/Public Relations officer.

3) Education and Recreation - Committee Chairman Whitehurst gave the following report:

The Committee met on Tuesday May 19, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the Pickens County Administration Facility, Main Conference Room. Committee Chairman Whitehurst presided with all Committee Members in attendance.

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator
 Helen Hockwalt, Tourism Director
 Chris Brink, Planning Director
 Gerald Wilson, Public Works Director
 Barry Chappell, Delinquent Tax Director

Guest: Mayor Stoddard
 Tom Ponder

>>While there were no actions on Mr. Whitehurst Committee log. Mr. Whitehurst took the opportunity to give special thanks to Helen Hockwalt and County Staff for the work and dedication that went into the Medal of Honor Recipient ceremony and celebration. Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst stated he could not have asked for more, and he was beyond pleased with the way these recipients were honored.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Willis both echoed all that had been stated about the ceremony and also gave thanks to everyone who worked on the ceremony and the dedication to these recipients with County facilities. Ms. Willis also especially thanked Helen Hockwalt for her work on this, as well as thanking Mr. Whitehurst as the Committee Chairman and leader during this process. Also discussed was how special and memorable the motorcade was with the motorcycles.

Mr. Ponder also gave special thanks to Tom Hendricks who brought the idea to this Council. Mr. Ponder stated that Mr. Hendricks was extremely dedicated to the services of our military.

Item	Description	Report
8	Pickens County Medal of Honor recipients. Retained 2013 Retained 2015	Tourism Director, Helen Hockwalt set up viewing for the video review. -The Committee viewed the videos for the Medal of Honor Recipients and discussed changes. - Confirmed order of videos -Reviewed programs and made editorial changes -Confirmed times for each program -Changed bow colors for Recipient Howe -Discussed park benches would be at the magistrates site, but not part of the Memorial -Discussed advertising -Staff informed Committee about the purchase of another flag pole, and this will place the budget slightly over.
9	Complaints with Shooting Ranges (specifically Whitmire Road) First reading 03/02/2015 for an ordinance to make provisions for safe shooting.	Committee recommends for staff to draft an Ordinance based on many discussion items to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of ranges – rifle vs pistol • Distance from dwellings • Noise limits/and noise limits back to the development standards • Use of explosive devices/targets • Fencing and other barriers

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Council discussed the following topics:

- 1) Chairman Willis asked everyone to clear a date for a special called meeting and a committee meeting.
- 2) Regarding some of the negative press, Councilman Tom Ponder stated he thought several special interest groups and others with personal agendas have recently attacked and been negative about County Council. Mr. Ponder stated he was proud of Council as they have taken the stance of keeping quiet and professional. However, Mr. Ponder stated his constituents and other citizens he has spoken with have wanted County Council to rebut issues such as the unprofessionalism of responding to anonymous letters and phone calls. Also, when other groups are negatively discussing the leadership and economic growth of the County, he thinks it's time for Council to start speaking up. Therefore, Mr. Ponder challenged the Council to start responding to these issues because the Council needs to respond with facts.
- 3) Councilman Smith stated that while enough had been said about the Greenville News article regarding economic development, he did want to point out that it was discouraging when a native of Pickens County and U.S. Senator was announcing his candidacy for the President of the United States, that the Greenville News chose to run a negative story about Pickens County as the headline. Mr. Smith stated that is the reason people do not subscribe.
- 4) Councilman Randy Crenshaw stated he would make a comment to the media. He did not appreciate the negative article regarding economic development, and stated the County has been good to its citizens in many ways, and the media should write about those issues.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Councilman Tom Ponder moved to investigate the Hagood Mill pole building project, and further sent this issue to the Committee of the Whole. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LIBERTY FOR ANIMAL CONTROL BEGINNING JULY 1:

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed to begin animal control with the City of Liberty.

APPROVAL FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND REMOVAL OF INVENTORY AT 120 COMMONS WAY; RE. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF CENTRAL:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith. Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst seconded the motion.

>during discussion, Councilman Neil Smith ask for clarification if this is to assist the City of Central to move into the building. Chairman Willis stated the County's lease agreement specifies that the City will let the County know about changes or improvements, also they are notifying the County about the inventory that they plan on removing and disposing. Mr. Crenshaw stated the inventory was lengthy and perhaps the County would want to place into auction. Mr. Whitehurst stated he wanted to make sure the previous tenants did not own said property. Mr. Ponder stated he thought the County should store the inventory until we communicate with the previous tenants.

>>Chairman Willis amended the motion to state all items the City of Central needs to dispose of will be stored and identified at a County facility. The items the City retains will also be identified. Disposal will be determined after communication with previous tenant. Amendment was seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster. Amendment passed with a unanimous vote.

>All members voted unanimously on the agreement as amended.

APPROVAL OF ELBERT COURT TO BE ACCEPTED INTO THE MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ROAD SYSTEM:

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed to approve Elbert Court into the minimum maintenance system.

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to accept the disaster mitigation grant.

APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE PICKENS COUNTY AIRPORT GRANT:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed to apply for the airport grant.

APPROVAL FOR A LOAN TO PICKENS COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the loan for Meals on Wheels.

>the public was informed that Meals on Wheels has expanded their mission because Seniors Unlimited is no longer in service. Mr. Smith thanked the MOW board and Ms. Bowers for their work on this expansion. Chairman Willis also stated the county wanted to do the loan because the County owns the building, and that is a good business decision.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SEC. 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF

SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO:

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed that this constitutes first reading of an ordinance between Pickens and Oconee County industrial park.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 492 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 297 AS IT RELATES TO THE DEFINITION OF JUNKYARDS:

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 492 to amend the definition of junkyards in Ordinance No. 297.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 493 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 415 AS IT RELATES TO THE DEFINITION OF JUNKYARDS:

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 493 to amend the definition of junkyards in Ordinance No. 297.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 491 TO CONVEY PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE OLD LIBERTY GYM AND PRACTICE FIELD TO THE CITY OF LIBERTY:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for a public hearing as it relates to Ordinance No. 491 to convey the old Liberty Gym and Practice field to the City of Liberty.

- 1) Mr. Philip Smith- Thanked Council for this property purchase and improvement.
- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith and seconded by Chairman Willis that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 491.
>Councilman Neil Smith stated this property is part of the whole piece in Liberty that is now the new auditorium and magistrate's office. Mr. Smith stated this gym is a building that would have cost the City of Liberty over \$2 million to build. Mr. Smith stated this was a great project by the County and giving back to the City is a good thing to do for this area.
Councilman Whitehurst also stated this had been a successful project. These building were abandoned school buildings and a complete eyesore in the middle of Liberty. Now the complex is professional and a tremendous asset. Mr. Whitehurst further thanked Councilman Smith for his persistence and oversight on this project.
 - All members voted unanimously that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 491.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO.489 THE FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for a Public Hearing as it relates to the FY 2015/2016 Budget Ordinance. Hearing none, the Public Hearing was closed.

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst that this constitute a third reading of Budget Ordinance No. 489.

>>Budget Amendments and Discussion:

- 1) Councilman Neil Smith amended the budget to include fire fees on vacant land as follows:

(0-5 acres \$20) (5.01-25 acres \$80) (25.01 -100 acres \$160) (100.01-1,000 acres \$240) and (greater than 1,000 acres \$320) Chairman Willis gave the second to the amendment. Councilman Neil Smith explained this is a very equitable solution as many fires in the County are brush fires. Also noted was the fact that a single mobile home dwelling averages \$100 in fire fees, while the owner of a 100 acre track of vacant land pays nothing.

>amendment passed with a unanimous vote.

- 2) Councilman Neil Smith amended the budget to reflect adding a new position in building codes and to accept the revenue increase of \$50,000 within the building code department to cover the expense. Councilman Tom Ponder gave the second to the amendment.

Chairman Willis commented that during the downturn of the housing market Pickens County did not eliminate employees, but utilized them elsewhere within the county. As a result, the building codes department became understaffed. Thankfully, the building industry has greatly improved and now this department's revenue will sustain the needs of the added inspector.

>amendment passed with a unanimous vote.

- 3) Councilman Tom Ponder moved to add the HVAC position to Building Maintenance. Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst gave the second to the amendment. Mr. Whitehurst requested more knowledge of what the County is currently paying for outside vendors to maintain the HVAC system. Mr. Guarino stated the year to date total of \$298,286 includes projects such as the new chiller. The total cost in the building maintenance department for repairs is \$37,000 and the library \$44,000 for a total of \$81,000. Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst stated that with the library having a separate millage, a percentage of the cost of this employee could come from their budget. Mr. Guarino stated approximately 55% of cost this year is for library buildings. Councilman Neil Smith stated the important piece is to hire a qualified person that can reduce these costs going forward. Mr. Smith further stated these cost could be monitored. Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst concurred that the county does not want to add this position and still have large expenses with outside vendors.

> amendment passed with a unanimous vote.

- 4) Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst moved to amend the budget between the Vineyards Fire District and Keowee Springs Fire District. Mr. Whitehurst stated that he and Mr. Guarino have worked with both districts regarding allocation of funds. Both fire districts have agreed to the following- the Vineyards will reduce the charge to the Springs by \$46,743, and the Vineyards will reduce their operational cost by \$20,000 and request a tax increase of 1.6 mills; the Springs millage will reduce by 4.1 mills. Mr. Whitehurst stated this does not affect the budget, but reallocates the way the funds are distributed. Councilman Neil Smith seconded the amendment. All members voted in favor and unanimously passed.

- 5) Councilman Neil Smith moved to increase the Public Service fee by .09 as requested by the Public Service Commission. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

- 6) Councilman Neil Smith moved to amend the budget to include the increase of housing prisoners at \$30,000 and correct the EMS fees at \$75,000 for a revenue increase of \$105,000. Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst gave the second. Amendment was unanimously passed.

- 7) Councilman Neil Smith moved to fund the position as recommended by the Committee of the Whole for a Public Information /Relations position. Chairman Willis gave the second to the amendment. Chairman Willis stated this position would assist in getting a consistent message out to the public, as it is obvious that Council's message needs to be well defined. Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst stated he believed the job of public relations is the responsibility of the

Chairman. Mr. Whitehurst stated he realized the County and the Council is facing a difficult time, but he would not be in favor of funding the position until he had more research. Chairman Willis stated the job description and responsibilities of this position were still in the Committee of the Whole. Ms. Willis also stated that a public relation responsibility is extreme for a Chairman, especially for a County of this size. Mr. Smith agreed that the duties of a public information/relations would need to be determined, as he did not think that a person should respond to political criticisms, but should be a source for informing the public and media of what the County Council is doing, and why issues such as State funding are so crucial. Mr. Whitehurst asked if the revenues were already in place, then could the funds be allocated at a later time. Mr. Smith stated if the funding could be allocated later, he would withdraw his motion. Chairman Willis did not want to withdraw her second. Therefore the amendment stated of the floor.
>The amendment carried 5-1, with Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst voting in opposition.

Hearing no further amendments for the FY 2015/2016 budget, Chairman Willis asked for a vote on the Budget Ordinance No. 489 as amended. All members voted in favor that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 489 as amended.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 490 TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

Chairman Willis opened the Public Hearing as it relates to the FY 2014/2015 Budget Amendment Ordinance. Hearing none, Ms. Willis closed the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 490.

>Ms. Willis stated to the public this is a year-end ordinance to show the expenditures of the year, and the ordinance also shows the meeting dates where these expenditures were approved.

- Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst moved that this constitute a third and final reading on Ordinance No. 490. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 488 TO AMEND THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE PARK AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCE NO. 475 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO AMEND THE TERM OF THE PARK FOR ITECH SOUTH, LLC PROPERTY:

- Councilman Neil Smith moved that this constitute a third and final reading on Ordinance No. 488. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

Health Insurance Renewal – Committee of the Whole
Refinancing of Bonds- Administration and Finance Committee
Animal Control/Storm-water Memorandums: Administration and Finance
Hagood Mill Investigation (pole building) –Committee of the Whole
(added during motion period)

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Willis called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Willis further stated each purpose the Council would be discussing.

Legal Issues-Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)

Employment Law

Contractual Issues- Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)
Library donations/purchase
Economic Development (3 items)
Easley TIF
Liberty TIF
Property Acquisition

Personnel-30-4-70 (a) (1)
Administrator Candidates

Boards and Commissions - 30-4-70 (a) (1)
Economic Development
Public Service Commission
Aeronautics Commission
Library

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to convene into Executive Session for the stated purposes.

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Willis called the Public Session back to order and advised no action as a result of discussion of personnel, Employment Law, or Economic Development.

Contractual-

Easley TIF:

- Councilman Neil Smith moved to approve the Easley TIF Agreement as stated with the new contract. Chairman Willis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Boards and Commission-

Alliance Pickens - Councilman Randy Crenshaw moved to re-appoint Michael Keith and David Collins to the Alliance Pickens Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

Public Service Commission – Chairman Willis moved to re-appoint Robert Dye to the Public Service Commission, motion was seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

Aeronautics Commission-Councilman Randy Crenshaw moved to appoint Ray Tinkler to the Aeronautics Commission. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed

Library Board-Councilman Neil Smith moved to re-appoint Anne Hendricks to the Library board, motion was seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Willis called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman