

March 5, 2007  
Regular Council Meeting  
7:00PM

County Council met in regular session, in the auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Vice Chairman Ben Trotter presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting, were mailed to Council members and local news media, February 28, 2007

Council Members in attendance:

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

Absent: G. Neil Smith, Chairman

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator  
Ken Roper, County Attorney  
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council  
Olivia Vassey, Research Analyst

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairman Trotter called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. James London gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of February 19, 2007

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

1. **David Pike. Pumpkintown Fire District.** Mr. Pike came before Council to introduce himself and thank Council for the recent appointment to the Board of Directors in the Pumpkintown Fire District.
2. **Sam Miller, Ernest Hall, and Kent Dykes. Citizens requesting support for the Development of the Easley Town Center.** Citizens requested that Council support the development of the Saco Lowell property. Citizens stated this development would bring much needed improvements to the roads and the bridge in this area. Also citizens would like to see the growth of jobs and believe this development would bring in 900 jobs to the County. Furthermore a petition was submitted to council with approximately 400 signatures in support of this project.
3. **Roy Collins. Requesting funding for Family Readiness Support Group.** Mr. Collins requested that Council fund the \$1,000.00 for the National Guard. Mr. Collins explained these funds are used for the purpose of assisting families who have family members deployed. Mr. Collins stated many needs for these families and that funding goes toward assisting such needs. Also mentioned were

newsletters and fund raising golf tournaments. Mr. Collins further requested that Council add this to the agenda.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Work session 02/19/07

Mr. Trotter gave the report for the public, but stated this was a work session and no action reported.

**Work Session  
Council as a whole  
February 19, 2007**

Council Members met in the Main Conference Room, County Administration with Chairman Neil Smith presiding. All Council Members were in attendance.

Staff:

Chap Hurst, Administrator  
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council  
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director  
Chris Brink, Community Development Director

A work session was held for the purpose to discuss transportation issues for Pickens County.

The consensus of Council:

1. Pickens County Council needs to develop a Transportation Plan
2. Council will define a priority list
3. Representation on all transportation committees need to report to council

Council also ask staff for a (3) year look back of funding; how it was spent and where is it committed.

With this being a work session of Council, no action was allowed and meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

**ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

**Mr. Hurst provided the following memorandums to Council.**

- **Sale of Tri-County Landfill property**

Each of the three counties (Anderson, Oconee and Pickens) has agreed to sell the Tri-County Landfill property. I have enclosed letters from the other two and they have agreed to allow the COG to sell the property based upon sealed bids. The property will be advertised by the COG in local newspapers in each of the three counties. The sale will occur on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Council of Governments in Greenville. The successful bidder will be required to deposit 10% of the bid price within 24 hours. If we do not receive a bid that meets the minimum established for the sale of the property, then all bids would be rejected. The successful bidder will then have 40 days to close on the property. Site visits to the property will be allowed by contacting Steve Grant in the Pickens County Purchasing Department.

- **Customer Service Program**

In order to improve the service provided by the various departments, I have decided to institute a Customer Service Program. This program will involve feed back from the customers that interact with the various departments. The interaction will occur through the use of survey cards as well as personal contacts. For example, an individual who applies for a building permit will be contacted by someone in my department to determine if they were treated courteously, if the service was prompt and if the individual who waited on them had adequate knowledge of the subject matter. Work orders from Public Works will be pulled at random from taxpayer requests and contacts will be made with these individuals to determine if the work that was done was done satisfactorily and timely. I believe that Pickens County will be the first in the state to conduct such a program; but as you are aware this program is used by many businesses to track the services that they provide. I believe that this will result in improved service for our taxpayers and will allow management to correct deficiencies that may exist in certain areas. We will also have surveys on the Internet that will be available to the public for their comments. We have located several areas around the building for taxpayers to access the customer service surveys. We ran a trial survey on the Internet approximately 30 days ago and determined that this would be a useful tool to enhance our service.

**Council Correspondence:**

*Announcements, recognition of citizens, groups, or employees. This is not a time for motions or debate.*

>>Councilmember Willis brought attention to the Guardian ad Litem program and encouraged Council and Citizens to educate themselves regarding this extremely important program. Both Councilman Ponder and Mrs. Willis stated the importance of volunteers who serve in the Guardian ad Litem program as advocates appointed by family court to represent the best interest of children who are abused or neglected. Mrs. Willis further gave dates for a local fundraiser for this organization. May 12, 2007, 6:00 PM at the Hendricks Center in Clemson.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Water Authority Board Appointment.** Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis moved to add to the executive session a board appointment to the Water Authority. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
2. **Family Readiness Support Group.** Tom Ponder moved to add to the agenda the request for funding of the Family Readiness Support Group. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.
3. **Road Issues; added to consent to be referred to the Public Service Committee.** Tom Ponder moved to add to the consent agenda an issue regarding complaints with road shoulders. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.
4. **Discussion of the Easley Town Center/Saco Lowell property.** James London requested the issue regarding the development of property at the Saco Lowell site be added to executive session to see if there is any new information. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.
5. **Personnel Issue.** Ben Trotter moved to add to the executive session a personnel issue. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

With there being no further motions for New Business, Vice Chairman Trotter closed the Motion Period.

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 385 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 6-31-10 ET.SEQ CODE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AS AMENDED, BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SC AND MRR PICKENS, LLC, A SOUTH CAROLINA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY TO BE LOCATED IN PICKENS COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA, TMS# 4098-00-82-5916, ALSO RELATING TO THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY TO PICKENS COUNTY FOR AN INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPANSION AND RELATING TO THE DONATION OF REAL PROPERTY TO PICKENS COUNTY FOR PUBLIC USES, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO:**

>>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed that this constitutes third and final reading of Ordinance No. 385.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-02 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A HOST AGREEMENT FOR A LONG TERM CONSTRUCTION, DEMOLITION AND LAND-CLEARING DEBRIS LANDFILL AND OTHER ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND MRR PICKENS, LLC, WHEREBY, (1) COUNTY CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION AND LAND CLEARING WASTE DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE SET FOR THE LIFE OF THE MRR PICKENS, LLC, LANDFILL , (2) COUNTY WILL BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO MULCH PRODUCT AND FILL DIRT, AND (3) CERTAIN PROPERTY SHALL BE CONVEYED FROM MRR, PICKENS, LLC., TO COUNTY; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS:**

>>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve Resolution No. 07-02.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

- Request from the Pickens Fire District; referred to the Administration and Finance Committee
- Funding requirements for budget approval; referred to the Administration and Finance Committee
- Road Shoulder issues; referred to the Public Service Committee.

**FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT GROUP:**

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder to provide the requested \$1,000.00 to the Readiness Support Group; motion further included adding \$1,000.00. Mr. Ponder stated this is an extremely good organization that supports the National Guard families while loved ones are deployed. Jennifer Willis seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor of taking \$2,000.00 from contingency to give to the Family Readiness Support Group.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes, as amended.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- Public Service Commission
- Recreation Advisory Committee
- Board of Zoning and Appeals
- Water Authority (added motion/period)

Discussion of Saco Lowell Property (added motion/period)  
Personnel issue (added motion/period)

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

Mr. Trotter called the Public Session back to order and allowed the following motions.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

1. Public Service Commission. Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder moved to appoint Weldon Clark. Motion carried with a unanimous vote
2. Recreation Advisory Committee. Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder moved to appoint Lee Looper. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
3. Board of Zoning and Appeals. Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw moved to appoint Dennis Reinert. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
4. Water Authority. Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis moved to appoint Harry Wilson. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Personnel Issue

>>Jennifer Willis moved to authorize the County Administrator to create a Sick Leave Bank program for County Employees. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

Saco Lowell Property

No action, council did not receive further information.

**ADJOURN:**

With there being no further business before the Pickens County council, motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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Ben Trotter, Vice Chairman