

February 16, 2010
Regular Council Meeting
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media, February 10, 2010.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
Tom Ponder
Sam Wyche

Clerk to Council: Donna Owen

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of February 16, 2010 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Smith further gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of January 27, 2010 and February 1, 2010.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst informed Council of the following issues.

1. Areas for shelters – Mr. Hurst stated during this period of inclement weather, he and Emergency Management staff were observing areas in the county that may require shelters. Mr. Hurst stated he is proposing purchasing (3) generators and providing the generators for facilities that meet the Red Cross requirements for shelters. Mr. Hurst stated the concern is for some of the remote areas in the county. Also, he stated shelters are in place for locations within the 10 mile radius of Oconee Nuclear, but more places need to be identified that are not in that particular zone.
2. Millage rates- Mr. Hurst provided Council and Media with research that shows Pickens County as the 4th lowest millage rate in the State. Mr. Hurst pointed out that many counties were as much as 4.5 times higher than Pickens County. This is important as reassessment and economic issues continue to burden the tax payer.
3. Emergency Medical Services- Mr. Hurst introduced (2) employees from the EMS department, Bobby Wales and Deitrich Easter. They were further recognized for winning a recent competition in emergency response. Mr. Hurst stated this was impressive, as Pickens County had never placed first in this rigorous competition. Also the gentlemen will go on to compete at the State level.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith stated there were several letters and documents within the council folders, and asked that Council look at those materials.

Tom Ponder spoke about a recent meeting regarding the Highway 153 extension. Mr. Ponder stated many residents in the area are concerned about where the road is going. Mr. Wyche also stated members of the Rock Springs Church are concerned about issues as well. Chairman Smith instructed Mr. Hurst to report on the GPATS funding of the \$12 million that was originally set aside for projects, and for staff to begin looking at details for Pickens County being their own transportation division. Chairman Smith stated he thought the threshold for that is a population of 100,000.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for Council regarding any new business.

- James London stated that the Tourism board has recently finished their Tourism Plan and further moved to place on consent. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. Clarification was made that this would be in the committee of the whole.
- James London made a motion to add (2) board appointments to the executive session, motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.
- Chairman Smith moved to add to consent the request from Behavioral Health Services. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Clarification was made this would go to the Administration and Finance Committee.

THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS ORDINANCE:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder and seconded by Sam Wyche that this constitute a third reading for the Development Standards amendments.
- Randy Crenshaw moved to amend the mobile home section of the ordinance to state,

“In order to promote home ownership, a home in a manufactured home park can be redrawn by the home owner or prospective home owner as a separate home and considered an owner occupied home.” Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder.

During discussion, Jennifer Willis stated this issue had been before council before, and only a few parcels would fit this category, as this is for the grandfathered manufactured parks only. There are very few cases of an owner not being allowed to refinance because their lot or property is within the park, and it is all platted together.

Third reading as amended passed with a unanimous vote.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 410 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis that this constitutes a first reading of an ordinance to enlarge the Oconee/Pickens business park. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT COUNTY BUSINESS PARK, LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF OCONEE, SOUTH CAROLINA:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder to approve the agreement regarding the joint county business park in Oconee County.

AN ORDINANCE TO DEVELOP A JOINT COUNTY BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (“OCONEE COUNTY”) SUCH BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 13 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION, AND SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS OF 1976 §4-1-170, ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXES TO PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, OCONEE COUNTY AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES; TO PROVIDE THAT JOBS TAX CREDITS ALLOWED BY LAW BE PROVIDED FOR BUSINESSES LOCATING IN SAID PARK; AND TO PERMIT A USER FEE-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXATION WITHIN SAID PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of an ordinance to develop a joint business park in conjunction with Oconee/Pickens County.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Refer to Committee of Administration-Security issues for the County building/parking lot

Refer to Committee of Administration – Request from Behavioral Health Services

Refer to Committee of the whole – Tourism Plan

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Legal Update

Personnel Update

Board Appointments

Contractual items (3)

Boards and Commissions

(appointment/policy update)

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the regular meeting back to order and advised the following motions.

Contractual issue:

- Jennifer Willis moved to approve the Pickens County School Boards request to sale property known as Lot 7 Woodside Mills. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

Boards and Commissions:

- James London moved to re-appoint Hope Threadgill to the Mental Health Board of Directors. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed
- James London moved to re-appoint Corinne Cannon to the Board of Zoning and Appeals. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

Chairman Smith stated other issues were discussed, but required no action at this time.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:45.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County Council