

**\*\*Please note - These are not official minutes of the Pickens County Council meeting. This reflects the issues that were before Council and shows the actions, however the minutes are not “official” until the County Council meets and approves them as presented. Please contact, Donna Owen, Council Clerk for any questions.**

January 8, 2007  
Regular Council Meeting  
7:00 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, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Council Members in attendance:

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

Absent: James B. London

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

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Smith called the meeting of 1/8/2007 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith called upon Jennifer Willis to give the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes of December 4, 2006 and January 2, 2007 were approved by motion of Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter. All members voted in favor as presented.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Smith stated he would recognize the Clerk to Council for a reading of citizens who were signed up for Public Forum.

The Clerk stated no citizens have signed up for 1/8/07 Public Forum.

Chairman Smith closed the Public Forum.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Justice and Public Safety - Committee Chairman Ben Trotter gave the following report.

The committee of Justice and Public Safety met in the Main Conference Room with all committee members in attendance.

**Staff:**

Chappell Hurst, County Administrator  
 Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator  
 Donna Owen, Clerk to Council  
 Olivia Vassey, Research Analyst

**Others:**

Fire District Boards of:  
 Six Mile  
 Liberty  
 Dacusville  
 Vineyards  
 Pumpkintown

Item	Description	Referred	Report	Action
4	Fire District By-Laws  Pulled from committee of the whole 05/15/06	05/15/06	12/11/06	Committee recommends the following by-laws for all Fire Districts. >>Council unanimously passed the By-Laws from Committee.  <b>**Staff will look at the current ordinances and determine the amendments as required. Also staff will incorporate the ordinance regarding millage rate/ Fire fee changes.</b>

By- laws for all Fire Districts

Please note: many of these items are already in the ordinance which creates the fire district. This is to clearly define and make known the responsibilities of the Fire District Board. As well as follow proper guidelines for having public meetings.

**Board of Commissioners:**

Upon an advertised Public Meeting- Each fire district will have an advisory election for commissioners and make recommendations to County Council; it is the responsibility of Council to make these appointments. Terms are for three years.

The fire district will hold its Advisory Election for Board of Directors anytime between November 1 – December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. It is the responsibility of the Fire District Board to notify the Clerk to Council by the first week in October as to time and place of the public meeting. The Clerk will advertise the meetings in a newspaper of general population.

**Agendas and Meetings**

All meetings, including elections to the board will be open to the public.

There will be an agenda for every meeting. The board members should receive the agendas three to four days prior to each meeting, as well as the media.

It is the responsibility of the Fire District Board to provide the dates times and location of the meetings to the Clerk to Council. This is to be done at the beginning of every calendar year and the Clerk will post the meetings for the year at one time. It is the responsibility of the Fire District Board to inform the media of each meeting as well as post their agenda at the meeting location. It is also the responsibility of the Fire District Board to notify the media and the Clerk to Council if the meeting schedule changes from the original schedule or if a special meeting is called.

The agenda format

1. invocation
2. approval of the minutes from previous meeting
3. items for new business \*\*
4. items for old business
5. adjourn

*\*\*during the motion period for new business, it is appropriate to add items to the agenda which did not get on the agenda at the time of mail out; however any items proposed must have the unanimous consent of the Board of Directors in order to take action. In the event the vote is not unanimous, the item will automatically be placed on the next agenda.*

All meeting will be held in accordance to Roberts Rule of Order.

All meeting minutes should be sent to county council after they are approved

There will be a public hearing of these districts on all budgets. Amendments to the budgets and all budget work sessions and budget amendments will be open to the public, the budget public hearing will be advertised in the local paper 15 days prior.

All votes will be a majority vote of the whole board of commissioners

### **Responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners:**

The board will appoint the fire chief in each district

The board will work with the fire chief to prepare an annual budget

All equipment owned by that district will be assumed to be assigned in that district

All districts will follow the guide lines of the public safety committee after final approval by county council.

The day-to-day operations of the fire department will be run by the fire chief under the guide lines of the board of commissioners, except those paid firemen that are county employees, these firemen will be under the county administrator or his designee.

The board of directors will report to county council on an annual basis or at other times either party deems necessary.

### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

#### **Discussion Items:**

*These are items that council will receive information and/or presentation without voting. These items will come back up on another agenda for the purpose of voting if necessary.*

Chairman Smith reminded Council that this was a time to receive information and that Council would be seeing more of this on agendas, especially the second agenda of the month.

Mr. Hurst provided Council with the following memorandums:

**Presentation concerning Rural Development Programs/ Gail Cline**

Gail Cline will introduce representatives from USDA that will give a brief overview of the programs they offer in Pickens County. We are working in conjunction with USDA to present a small business program on January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm. This seminar will give insight into grants and loans as well as other services that are offered by USDA for businesses. We are advertising this seminar in local newspapers. It is my hope that we can encourage residents to take advantage of these programs as they have been under utilized in our County.

**NIMS Training Classes**

Lynn Fisher will be conducting NIMS Training classes January 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Training Room in the basement of the Administration Building. Council approved a resolution in April 2005 adopting the NIMS system for dealing with emergency situations in Pickens County. I have included a copy of this resolution for your information. If Pickens County is to receive funding to reimburse for costs incurred due to disasters our elected officials as well as all officials must receive emergency training. We have conducted classes for six county employees and developed a system that we believe maximizes your time and insures that you meet all government requirements. Should you wish to continue and receive additional courses, you may do so but we feel that we must provide training for the minimum that is necessary to meet the requirements.

**South Carolina REACH program**

Pickens County is participating with the State Emergency Operations Center in a program entitled South Carolina REACH. This is a web based reverse 911 method of notifying citizens of hazards in their community. This allows Pickens County to contact very localized segments of the public in special situations and at times when the public may not be monitoring the media such as late at night. There is no up front cost to this program however there is a charge of \$.04 per minute per call should the system be implemented. A bill is generated by the state once a year for any charges incurred during the year. Up to 200 lines are available should the need arise. The system will not call unlisted numbers or homes where recent changes to telephone numbers have not been updated in the SC REACH database. It will call cell phones, pagers or FAX numbers if these numbers have been included in the REACH database. Individuals may update the REACH database via the Internet at [www.reachsc.com](http://www.reachsc.com). This system allows impacted areas of the county to be selected for notification of incidents while the rest of the county is not bothered. The county will be educating the public on the importance of updating their preferred telephone numbers and what to expect on messages they may receive.

**Presentation to reconsider Roper Construction Plans/Chap Hurst, Wes Hulsey**

I have included for your review cost estimates for alternatives for the Roper plant. The engineer will explain each of these alternatives to you and the pros and cons of each. Under any scenario

DHEC must approve the alternative. The engineer and myself will meet with DHEC officials in early January should you decide to reconsider the approval of the \$4.4 million dollar plan and select an alternative included in your packet. You must remember that the engineer has previously submitted to DHEC recommendations and those recommendations were to build a \$4.4 million dollar treatment facility. The alternatives presented include portions of the total design package; and, I have been assured will meet the requirements to relieve the consent order. The decision before you is whether or not to proceed with the \$4.4 million dollar treatment facility or to pursue a lesser-cost alternative that will relieve the county of its responsibilities under the consent order. A motion to reconsider would be required only if you wish to reconsider the building of the \$4.4 million dollar treatment facility.

Mr. Hurst provided to Council that they could hear the presentation but the issue may need to be further discussed in executive session as a contractual issue and if need be, could be voted upon.

Mr. Wes Hulseley gave Council more information regarding the Roper Plant Upgrade. Mr. Hulseley stated that Council wanted other options other than the \$4.4 million that was presented on 12/04/06. Mr. Hulseley provided Council with an option that would cost approximately \$2.4 million which would satisfy the consent order from DHEC, but would probably force a fine because of the delay. Mr. Hulseley also informed Council that the cheaper option was probably a 5-7 year "fix" where as the \$4.4 million option was a 10 year fix; with the stipulation the DHEC regulations remain as they are currently. Also Council was informed that the cost could go a low as \$1.5 million, but that plan would not meet with the consent order.

>>Councilman Trotter requested information regarding cost estimates if the project had gone through Liberty as discussed in the past. Also Mr. Trotter commented regarding the last option as proposed, that he did not understand why it was even brought up if it would not work.

Mr. Hulseley stated he did not realize the last option would not work until samples were taken.

**COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

*\*This item is being added to the agenda for the purpose of announcements, recognition of citizens, groups, or employees. This is not a time for motions or debate.*

- Announcement of Committee assignments

Chairman Smith announced the Committee Assignments for 2007 as follows

1.	<b>Administration and Finance</b>
	G. Neil Smith, Chairman
	Tom Ponder
	Jennifer Willis
2.	<b>Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare and County Planning</b>
	Randy Crenshaw, Chairman
	Jim London
	Ben Trotter

3.	<b>Justice and Public Safety</b>
	Ben Trotter, Chairman
	Jim London
	Randy Crenshaw
4.	<b>Public Service</b>
	Tom Ponder, Chairman
	G. Neil Smith
	Jennifer Willis

- Announcement of Meeting schedules and times

Chairman Smith stated the next regular meeting fell on a holiday, therefore Council would meet on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 6:00 PM. Chairman Smith further stated he thought going forward all meeting may begin at 6:00 PM because he understands that citizens want to attend meetings, but also want to get out sooner.

Ben Trotter stated he wanted the citizens to be able to have time to get to the meetings and he would be in favor of the first meeting staying at 7:00 PM.

No other Council made comments.

- Announcement of Invocation schedule

Chairman Smith stated he had removed Roy Collins on the invocation list and place Randy Crenshaw in that slot.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Smith opened the floor for Motion Period. Hearing none, Chairman Smith closed the floor.

**APPROVAL OF GRANT FOR THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE:**

Chairman Smith called upon Mr. Mike Ferguson with the Sheriff’s Office regarding the Grant Application.

Mr. Ferguson stated this grant is with the Department of Public Safety. This grant is to provide the Sheriff’s Office with (85) .223 caliber semi-automatic rifles. Mr. Ferguson stated if the grant is successful there would be a 25% match, which is estimated at approximately \$23,875. Also noted was that \$15,000 is already in the budget. Mr. Ferguson also pointed out that in most cases the full grant request is not likely, therefore the match could be less.

Mr. Hurst stated if the match were successful the remainder could be used from contingency.

Chairman Smith entertained any Council Discussion.

Ben Trotter stated he would like to go on record as stating he was not in favor of purchasing anything from Colt, Inc. due to the fact they are manufacturing in Canada and Canada is not allowing the suspect who shot and killed an Easley business owner to be extradited back to the county.

Mr. Ferguson stated if the bid came from Colt, they would try to place the order with the Hartford Connecticut Plant. Mr. Ferguson stated the major issue with manufacturing in Canada was the military demand.

Chairman Smith called for a motion.

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis to approve the grant application. Ben Trotter voted in opposition. Motion carried with all other Council Members voting in the affirmative.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

\* Council Rules- Justice and Public Safety

Consider addition of Pledge of Allegiance to agenda format

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

- Appointments to Fire Districts
- Contractual Issue
- Legal Issue

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and advised the following issues.

• **Appointments to Fire Districts:**

1. Dacusville requests the re-appointment of Sam Childers.

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve Sam Childers.

Sam Childers  
136 Edinburgh Lane  
Easley, SC 29640

2. Easley request the re-appointment of Craig Quillin.

>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve Craig Quillin.

Craig Quillin  
116 April Drive  
Easley, SC 29640

3. Holly Springs request the re-appointment of Edgar Smith  
>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve Edgar Smith.

Edgar Smith  
2021 Moorefield Memorial Hwy.  
Sunset, SC 29685

4. Liberty request the re-appointment of Richard Ricken  
>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve Richard Ricken.

Richard Ricken  
127 Fleetwood Drive  
Liberty, SC 29657

5. Pumpkintown request the new appointment of Rhonda Billingsley, to take the place of Gaston James. Council has a vacancy due to the resignation of Amor Klotzbach  
>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve Rhonda Billingsley and to appoint Gaston James to fill the unexpired term of Amor Klotzbach.

Rhonda Billingsley 44 Lagerhome Mountain Road Pickens, SC 29671	Gaston James 1581 Mid Way Road Pickens, SC 29671
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6. Rocky Bottom requests the new appointment of Barry Crayfor to replace Faye Bayne.  
>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve Barry Crayfor.

Barry Crayfor  
202 Aiken Drive  
Sunset, SC 29671

7. Shady Grove requests the re-appointment of Edward Teagle and new appointment of Bobby Cummins, Mr. Cummins will replace Bradley Stone.  
>>Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve Bobby Cummins and Edward Teagle.

Bobby Cummins 117 Burwood Ct. Sunset, SC 29685	Edward Teagle 119 Youngdeer Trail Sunset, SC 29685
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8. Six Mile requests the new appointment of Harold Dalton and F.M. Caddell, these appointments will take the place of Virgil Mitchell and Jo Anne Gessell.  
>>Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approved Harold Dalton and F.M. Caddell.

Harold Dalton 931 Mile Creek	F.M. Caddell Mountain View
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Six Mile 29657

Six Mile 29657

9. Vineyards requests the re-appointment of Janet Benton.

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve Janet Benton.

Janet Benton  
108 Teaberry Lane  
Sunset, SC 29685

**Contractual Issue**

Chairman Smith advised no action on this issue and stated staff would be meeting with DHEC regarding a consent order.

**Legal Issue**

Chairman Smith stated that Council had a legal briefing regarding a recent issue that involves if County Council has the right to approve School District sale/lease of property.

Chairman Smith explained to the public that the General Assembly took the County Council's right to vote on that issue away. Mr. Smith clarified that Section 59-19-250 was voted upon and made clear by the General Assembly that County Council has no vote when it comes to the issue of Sale of School District Property. Also citizens were informed to contact their State Senators and State Representative about this issue.

**ADJOURN:**

With there being no further business before the Pickens County Council, motion to adjourn was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. Chairman Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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G. Neil Smith, Chairman