

**\*\*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 16, 2007  
Regular Council Meeting  
6:00 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 12, 2007.

Council Members in attendance:

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

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Smith called the meeting of Tuesday January 16, 2007 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Jennifer Willis was called upon for the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007. James London abstained due to his absence.

**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.*

Mr. Hurst provided council with the following memorandums regarding the following issues:

**Warpath Landing**

Andy Ballard, the developer of Warpath Landing, will update Council on his recent agreement with Duke and the progress of the project. His presentation should last approximately 5 minutes and he will be glad to answer any questions that Council may have. In my conversations with Duke Power they have stated that Mr. Ballard can make no changes to the original plan without having approval from them, FERK and Council. The only issues that still are to be addressed are the sizes of both the hotel and the marina, which are dependent upon the engineering studies that are in progress. The general concept will remain as originally presented to Council.

Mr. Ballard updated Council and reiterated the main focus of this project was to maintain and provide public access.

Mr. Ballard did indicate that some citizens groups had opposition to the development, hoped that they realize quality development.

### **Pickens County Airport**

A pre-application is being submitted for federal assistance based upon the 5-year plan for Airport improvements. These funds would allow the airport to pursue land acquisition and obstruction clearing in 2008. This is necessary to receive the automated landing system, which has been approved for Pickens County Airport by the State Aeronautics Commission. The County is currently removing trees on Airport property and WK Dickson is identifying obstructions off of the Airport property. Based upon results of the study there will need to be 31 ½ acres of land that will need to be purchased off of runway end 5 and approximately 22 acres of that will need to be cleared. Off of runway end 23 approximately 7.8 acres will need to be purchased and 7 acres of land will require an aviation easement and 9 acres will need to be cleared. From the enclosed 5-year plan, the county's commitment will be approximately \$32,000 next year and \$17,500 this year. The total commitment for the 5 years will be \$616,435 with \$500,000 of that for hangar development. I will proceed to work with the Airport Commission to develop the plan of work as it is outlined under the 5-year capital improvement plan. If you have objections to my pursuing this 5-year plan with the Commission, please advise me now.

WK Dickson is continuing to develop plans for the location of the terminal and we are resolving the obstruction issues in order to obtain the federal funding that is available to us. I anticipate all of these issues being resolved within the next 60 days.

Chairman Smith asked about the attached copy of the 5 year plan, and also stated a need to clarify the roles of Council and the Commission with these types of issues.

Mr. Hurst provided that the trees that need to come down around the airport would need a Stormwater permit which has to be issued from DHEC because it is County Property and our department can not issue the permit for our own project.

### **Update on abandoned Mobile Homes**

The abandoned mobile home program is proceeding better than anticipated. We have received 4 mobile homes from one neighborhood and have several others that are in the process of being recycled. The citizens that I have discussed this with are very excited with this program and felt that they would not have recycled their mobile home had this program not been available to them. I anticipate that this program could be expanded to include abandoned automobiles and we will approach you with a procedure for this within 30 days. I will be glad to answer any questions that you may have about this program.

Tom Ponder cautioned about containers being on citizen's property with no control over items that could be placed in the containers.

### **Solid Waste Plan**

I am working with Gerald Wilson, DHEC and Margaret Pope to include language in the Pickens County Solid Waste Plan that will protect the County from unwanted landfills. I have included a copy of the proposed Solid Waste Plan, which we will act on at the next meeting.

Jennifer Willis stated she would like to see the County use recycled tires for playgrounds. Also Mrs. Willis stated she would have some further ideas on this subject, such as the free use of mulch that Central and Clemson have adopted.

Chairman Smith stated council would have a work session to hear many of Council's thoughts on this subject.

### **GPS Systems**

We have held training sessions on the use of the GPS trackers with the Department Heads and have issued a limited number to the departments for installation. Some of the installations are permanently wired into the vehicles such as Solid Waste and Public Works. The remaining vehicles will have units attached to them, which can be removed should the department head desire to do so and placed in other vehicles. We purchased a limited number of units (40) in the beginning in order to acclimate the departments on their use and to determine exactly how many units were needed. The reception from all of those who are currently using them has been very positive and I believe that this program will prove to be very cost effective.

Council had some concerns about who decides which vehicles get the GPS System and further informed Mr. Hurst he should get some further information regarding this issue.

### **Council Questions:**

*This item is being placed immediately following the Administrators report for the purpose of council to ask questions of the Administrator or to provide information to the Administrator.*

- James London asked Mr. Hurst to check the litter situation on Highway 123. He informed Council that it was in need of attention. Mr. Hurst stated he would look at the State Contract and check on the situation.
- Ben Trotter asked about the issue at Cateechee. Mr. Trotter stated he was not aware of the sewer lines and plant issues that seem to be coming up now. Mr. Hurst stated he had a meeting with DHEC and that subject came up. Mr. Hurst stated the consent order was for the treatment center, but the lines are also in need of repair.
- Councilman Trotter also informed Mr. Hurst that during the health insurance process it was his understanding that if you took the higher deductible that your coverage and all cost would remain the same. He stated he called the HR Department to inform them that his co-pay had gone up. He said he was told that

information was in the brochure and it was known that co-pays would increase. Mr. Trotter stated he did not appreciate that kind of explanation.

- Tom Ponder stated he was frustrated with trying to get information and it was either not forthcoming or the information was not correct. Mr. Ponder stated the importance of addressing concerns.

>Chairman Smith stated if there are no other issues that Council needs to move forward; however Mr. Smith stated there are issues relating to the level confidence that Council has regarding the information.

### **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.*

- Council Meeting Schedule:

Chairman Smith stated he had asked Council about the schedule for council meetings at a previous meeting, and it was his understanding that Council still wanted the first meeting of the month to be at 7:00 PM. Chairman Smith stated the schedule would follow the first Monday at 7:00 PM and the third Monday at 6:00 PM.

### **MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Addition to executive session for Mental Health board appointment. James London moved to add this appointment to the executive session. Seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
2. Addition to executive session for discussion of a contractual issue. Chairman Smith requested this item be added to executive session. Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

### **THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 384 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH PICKENS COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS FOR 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX TO THE COUNTIES AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES:**

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes third and final reading of Ordinance No. 384.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the following purposes.

- Appointments to Fire Districts
- Appointments to Planning Commission
- Appointments to Workforce Investment Board
- Appointment to the Water Authority
- Legal Briefing

- Personnel Issue

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

>>Chairman Smith called the Public Session back to order and allowed the following motions.

- Appointments to Fire Districts- Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder moved to appoint Freddy Duncan to the Pickens Fire District Board. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Appointments to Planning Commission-no action
- Appointments to Workforce Investment Board.  
Motion was made by James London seconded by Ben Trotter and passed with a 5 to 1 vote to appoint Ed Parris, Anne Holliday, David Collins and Danny Fahey to the Workforce Investment Board. Randy Crenshaw abstained from the vote due to working relationship with one of the appointees.
- Appointment to the Water Authority. Chairman Smith moved to appoint Bill Smith, Jr. to the Water Authority. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.
- Legal Briefing.  
Motion was made by Jennifer Willis for Council to authorize the County Attorney to finalize the proposed settlement agreement in the pending suit between Pickens County and Buddy's Towing located on Highway 93 near Liberty. The settlement would reinstate the Ordinance and resolve the lawsuit without any financial impact to the taxpayer of the County. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.
- Personnel Issue-no action.
- As amended: addition for appointment to the Mental Health Board. Motion was made by James London, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to appoint Hope Threadgill to the Mental Health Board.
- As amended: addition of contractual issue- No Action. Council will be meeting in special session on Monday January 22, 2006 at 6:00 PM.

>>Chairman Smith announced to the public that he would hear a motion to adjourn the regular meeting, but would move to the main conference room for a work session regarding the Saco Lowell Property Project.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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G. Neil Smith, Chairman