

December 17, 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, December, 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 H. Willis

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of December 17, 2007 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Ben Trotter was called upon for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of December 3, 2007.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Smith stated in keeping with the council rules, all items would be deleted off committee logs unless a motion and unanimous consent was given to retain.

Administration and Finance: - Chairman Smith requested that all his items on the current log dated 12/17/2007 be retained. Such motion was made by Chairman Smith and seconded by Jennifer Willis. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning:-- Randy Crenshaw moved to retain items No. 18 and No. 20 with all other items deleted. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Justice and Public Safety: Ben Trotter moved to retain items No. 8 and No. 10 with all other items deleted. Motion was seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed.

Public Service: Mr. Ponder stated he had a meeting already scheduled for his committee items, and he would move to retain all items as of 12/17/07. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

MRSA Virus: Mr. Hurst informed Council that the Pickens County Prison was being extremely proactive regarding the MRSA virus. Mr. Hurst stated this virus is prevalent in confined populations such as prisons, schools, and hospitals. It is a dangerous virus that does not respond to regular antibiotic treatment. Mr. Hurst stated the prison is using education and the latest in antibacterial materials in order to keep the prison from becoming exposed.

Tourism Information: Mr. Hurst stated that Council has been discussing the many possibilities as it relates to tourism. Also council was reminded that the marketing of tourism is in the Administration and Finance Committee. Mr. Hurst provided Council with a packet of information as it relates to tourism and marketing for tourism.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Schedule for 2008 Meetings:

Chairman Smith requested that Council be more consistent and opened up some discussion for preference of meeting times.

Ben Trotter expressed concern about not having the Public Forum at 7:00 PM for those citizens who could not attend at 6:00 PM. Tom Ponder, Jennifer Willis, and James London stated that a specific time should be set and because it was confusing to have one meeting at 6:00 PM and another at 7:00 PM

Chairman Smith requested input from the audience, and the 6:00 PM or 6:30 PM time was most popular.

Chairman Smith stated he would hold the meetings at 6:00 PM and would adjust if need be.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

- Boards and Commissions. Tom Ponder moved to add to the agenda an appointment to the Planning Commission. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2007 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Emmett Halliday came before council to state the 2006 Audit held a Clean Unqualified Opinion. Mr. Halliday stated that meant there was no finding of misconduct and that good financial practices were being upheld by the County. Mr. Halliday did inform Council that the GASB 45 ruling as it related to employee benefits would be a more in-depth issue for next fiscal year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.
 - a. Marketing and Tourism for Pickens County—Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Boards and Commissions.

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purpose.

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the public session back to order and allowed the following motion.

- Planning Board Appointee- Tom Ponder moved to appoint Barry W. Bowen, Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

With no further business before the Council, Chairman Smith allowed a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by James London, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Chairman Smith also informed the public that a work session and committee meeting would be in the Main Conference Room.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman