

April 4, 2011
Regular Council Meeting
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Jennifer H. Willis presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media on March 25, 2011.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman
G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
Jeff Martin
Trey Whitehurst
Sam Wyche

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

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Willis called the meeting of April 4, 2011 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Willis further called upon Councilman Whitehurst for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for public forum and further requested the Clerk to call citizens to the podium.

The Clerk announced the following citizens:

Leonard Pitts – Mr. Pitts signed up, but was not in attendance.

Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark informed Council that the Taxpayers Association was hosting a forum with Congressman Duncan on Tuesday April 26, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Farm Bureau office. The forum would be used to address EPA air quality concerns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of March 7, 2011.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst updated Council on the following items:

- 1) **FAM Tour** – Mr. Hurst stated the Media FAM tour was coming through Pickens County this year, and the dates were April 19 – 22; the Media Tour writers will be going through Pickens, Anderson and Oconee Counties. This is part of Region 1 Heritage Corridor plans.
- 2) **Small Business Symposium**- Mr. Hurst stated that the Special Projects Coordinator is working to set up the small business symposium. That date will be April 26th, 2011 at 8:00 a.m., and will be at the Easley Campus of Tri-County Technical College.

- 3) **Tourism Partners Conference**- Mr. Hurst stated that staff was working on a Tourism Conference to be held May 19th, 2011 at the Tri-County Technical campus in Easley. Mr. Hurst stated further information would be forthcoming on this meeting.
- 4) **Tourism and Industry Video**- Mr. Hurst stated there would be a video being produced to promote industry and tourism. April 27-29.
- 5) **Nuclear Siren Test**- April 13th, 2011 at 11:50 – this will be a regular siren test. Mr. Hurst stated he wanted to publicize this test more because people were concerned about the nuclear plants as a result of the Japan nuclear plant issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Willis gave the following Administration and Finance report:

The Administration and Finance Committee met in the Main Conference Room on Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 9:00 am. Chairman Willis presided with all committee members in attendance. to include councilman Ponder.

Other members of Council: Tom Ponder

Staff: Chappell Hurst, Administrator
 Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
 Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
 Jennifer Woods, Human Resources Director
 Gerald Wilson, Roads and Bridges
 Lou Holder, Recycling Director
 Members of the Solicitor's office

Item	Description	Action
3	Security policy Retained 12/2009 Retained 12/2010	No, action.
5	Personnel Handbook Retained 12/2009 Retained 12/2010	>>Committee received information relating to updates for the new personnel handbook; committee recommends approval of the changes as discussed. Complete outline is attached. >>Council approved with the stipulation of the handbook staying in committee to address any issues that were overlooked, and to provide guidance with the ethics statement.
22	A review of the old Pickens High School gym which was bought last year. Review funding for repair, maintenance, and future uses. Retained 12/2009 Retained 12/2010	<i>This item is in the Education, Recreation, Committee, but committee will leave in the Administration Log for the purpose of reviewing expenses associated with repairs.</i>
27	Landfill issues/recycling/cost/alternate methods Retained 12/2010	No action, the committee received updates about new recycling ideas, such as co-mingled recyclables. Also, committee was updated on productive discussions with municipalities and the County assisting in their efforts to recycle.
28	Road Fee issues Retained 12/2010	Will be discussed at budget sessions
29	Study funding for all non-county functions Retained 12/2010	Will be discussed at budget sessions
35	Worthless Check Program	>>Committee approved a worthless check program with the solicitor's office.

				>Council approved.
36	Unemployment Insurance Rates and Assessments			Committee received updates, and informed the rate assessments do not apply to a government agency. Chairman Willis requested removal from the log.

The following is a brief synopsis of the changes we are recommending be made to the Employee Handbook

- Running For Elected Office – this is a new policy and it would not apply to current elected officials
- Workplace Privacy – This is simply an expansion of the current policy
- Tobacco Policy – the recommendation is that smoking/tobacco use only be allowed in designated areas. The big change is no tobacco use in County vehicles.
- Inclement Weather – recommending that in the event of office closure, employees would be required to charge time not worked to vacation or sick leave
- FMLA – recommending that FMLA run concurrent with all other leaves, when applicable.
- Holiday – adding 4 paid holidays for part-time employees who work a regular schedule
- Children in the Workplace – new policy
- Sick Leave – changing STA to strictly sick leave

Please see committee report for entire handbook changes.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for correspondence.

- 1) Chairman Willis reminded all council members that their ethics statements had to be completed on-line by April 15, 2011. She noted this it is mandatory to do on-line, and that no paper copies are distributed.
- 2) Chairman Willis also noted the cancelation of the meeting on April 11, 2011 with DHEC and the Saluda River Community due to pending litigation.
- 3) Councilman Martin inquired if the meeting with Saluda Lake citizens was canceled by mutual consent. Mr. Hurst stated that yes, both DHEC and citizens were agreeable that the meeting should be canceled.
- 4) Vice Chairman Smith made mention of the recent documentary that featured a Pickens County native. Mr. Smith stated it would be interesting to see if the CD was available.
- 5) Councilman Whitehurst asked the Administrator if soil samples were being conducted at the Twelve Mile River as requested. Mr. Hurst responded the samples were being done.
- 6) Tom Ponder stated that during the budget session he would like to review ways to keep the recycling centers regulated for Pickens County citizens only. Mr. Ponder stated there were increases in the solid waste during the times that Greenville County was closed. Also discussed was the fact that neighboring States such as North Carolina utilized the County centers.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for new business.

- 1) Neil Smith made the motion to add the Fair Housing resolution to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
- 2) Neil Smith made the motion to add the proposed Accommodation Tax report to the consent agenda. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL AS CLEAN UP MONTH IN PICKENS COUNTY:

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve the Clean up Pickens County Resolution.

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCES NO. 384, 410, 424, 433, AND 437 RELATING TO

THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of amendments to the Oconee and Pickens Industrial Park.

FIRST READING OF THE FY 2011/2012 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

Mr. Hurst introduced the FY 2011/2012 budget as being a very solid and conservative budget. In addition, Mr. Hurst stated this budget contained no tax increases, and only a slight increase in personnel, as mandated by higher regulations from the State as it relates to storm water.

- Motion was by Tom Ponder seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of the budget ordinance.

Chairman Willis thanked Mr. Hurst, and stated that everyone should email the Clerk several common dates for the process of budget work sessions.

FIRST READING OF THE FY 2010/2011 BUDGET AMENDMENT ORDINANCE:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading for the FY 2010 budget amendment.

ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL OF ROADS WITHIN CITY LAKE ESTATES SUBDIVISION- CITY LAKE DRIVE, WOOD DUCK COURT, AND CITY LAKE COURT:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder seconded by Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to take in City Lake Estates into the Pickens County road system.

ACCEPTANCE OF SHIVERS LANE IN THE MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ROAD SYSTEM:

- Motion was made by Jeff Martin, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to take in Shivers Lane into Pickens County minimum maintenance system.

ACCEPTANCE OF CARNEY LANE IN THE MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ROAD SYSTEM:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to take Carney Lane into the Pickens County minimum maintenance road system.

RESOLUTION OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT:

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the Fair Housing Act resolution.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

Added to consent agenda – Accommodation Tax proposal. Referred to the Administration and Finance Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Trey Whitehurst seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.
 - Legal update
 - Personnel update
 - Boards and Commissions
 - Contractual issue
 - Economic Development

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Willis called the public session back into order and allowed the following motions.

- 1) **Legal Issue**—Neil Smith moved to authorize the County Administrator to execute any and all agreements and rights of way to resolve the pending condemnation action brought against the County by Combined Utility, and the County’s challenge thereto, on the following conditions:
 - Fair Market value for easement of \$3,736.80
 - All existing grass, plantings, and bed lines to be replaced by Combined to pre-construction conditions
 - 20 foot permanent easement for line
 - 10 foot temporary installation easement
 - 20 by 90 foot temporary construction easement in front corner of lot nearest Kay Drive
 - Either Kay Drive entrance or Main Entrance to be absolutely open at all times
 - Follow 2/14 Design South letter for sequencing of construction to minimize impact on the operation of the fire department
 - Concrete cut at the joints, and not at any other location, and replaced as original (\$5000.00 to go toward this extra expense) Combined says original is 98% compaction, 4000 psi reinforced concrete. Also drill and epoxy dowels at joints to integrate.

Motion received a second from Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.

- 2) **Public Service Commission**—Motion was made by Jeff Martin, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to appoint Mr. James Hunter to the Public Service Commission.
- 3) **Planning Commission**- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to appoint Henry Wilson to the Planning Commission.
- 4) **Easley Central Water District**- Motion was made by Chairman Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to re-appoint Rebecca Platt and George Bryant to the Easley Central Water District.
- 5) **Tri-County Technical College**- Motion was made by Neil Smith and seconded by Tom Ponder to appoint Dr. Thomas Strange to the Tri-County Technical College Board. Neil Smith, Tom Ponder, Jeff Martin, Trey Whitehurst, and Sam Wyche voted in the affirmative, and Chairman Willis opposed. Motion carried.
>Council noted this was not an easy decision as (3) excellent applicants were interested in the appointment. Council stated this decision was based on the need for economic development and manufacturing to have a voice on the board.
- 6) **Pickens Alliance Board**- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis

to appoint Jim Kaplan to the Pickens Alliance Board. Motion carried with all voting in the affirmative.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Willis called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman