

****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.**

November 6, 2006
Regular Meeting
7:00 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, November 2, 2006.

Council Members in attendance:
Chairman Jennifer Willis
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro Tempore
C. Roy Collins
Tom Ponder
Ben L. Trotter

Absent: G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman

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

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Willis called the meeting of November 6, 2006 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation was given by Tom Ponder.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to approve the October 16, 2006 minutes as presented. Chairman Willis abstained from the vote due to her absence.

Public Forum:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for Public Forum.

- 1. Arlie Asay - Junkyards.** Mr. Asay requested that council look into the issue on Trotter Road and stated the owner has been given (2) 180 day citations to get the property cleaned up. Mr. Asay stated this is not a junkyard but a property owner who has allowed old cars, boats, washing machines and various other items to collect.
- 2. Tony Rogers - Laurel Ridge Subdivision.** Mr. Rogers requested assistance with the road in Laurel Ridge. Mr. Rogers stated this was a private road and would like the County to consider this road under the minimum maintenance

program. So far he has been informed by the Roads and Bridges Director that this road will not meet specifications.

>Mr. Hurst was instructed to look into both issues.

With no further comments, Public Forum was closed.

Committee Reports

Justice and Public Safety- Committee Chairman Ponder gave the following report:

The Justice and Public Safety Committee met on Thursday, October 26th, 2006 with Committee Chairman Tom Ponder presiding. All Committee Members were in attendance

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator
Olivia Vassey, Research Analyst

Fire Districts:

Dacusville
Vineyards

The Justice and Public Safety Committee met on Thursday, October 26th, 2006 with Committee Chairman Tom Ponder presiding. All Committee Members were in attendance

Item	Description	Referred	
4	Fire District By-Laws Pulled from committee of the whole 05/15/06	05/15/06	>Committee recommended some editing for the by-laws and will hold further meetings to finalize changes.
9	Legal issues regarding the Sewer Fee 10/16/06 courtesy first reading to an ordinance to amend the sewer fee charge.	10/16/06	>Committee recommends to change the name "sewer fee" to <u>State Debt Payment</u> <u>Council approved.</u>

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Mr. Hurst provided Council with the following memorandums.

- ***Request for funding for Employee Awards Banquet***

The County Employee Events Committee would like to request funding of \$10,000 for a Christmas awards banquet. This banquet would recognize employees for their years of service as well as those who have received special recognition for their performance during the year. We would also recognize and introduce those new employees who were employed during the year. This event would be held at Southern Wesleyan University in December. A dinner will be provided as well as a drawing for prizes. We plan on having entertainment that will be provided by a professional entertainer as well

as employees who have talents for singing or performing with bands. I would propose that this would be an annual event and we plan to take numerous photos of the employees that will be later used in an employee newsletter. A recent survey that was conducted by the HR Department indicated that the employees fully support this idea and are very excited about its potential.

- ***Tracker Update***

I have enclosed for your information copies of reports that can be obtained from the new tracker system. This unit was placed on the vehicle used to deliver purchases to the various departments. As you can see from the reports information on speed, stop time and routes are very clearly defined. We believe that the installation of these units will increase efficiency of our employees and help to save fuel by better route planning. We plan to purchase the units immediately and install them on equipment and vehicles within the various departments. The cost per tracker unit is \$300 dollars with no additional fees for computer programs. The units attach by a magnet or can be permanently attached and wired into the electrical system of the vehicle.

- ***Dilapidated Mobile Home Amnesty Program***

I would like to propose the following program for removal of dilapidated mobile homes in Pickens County. This program I believe addresses the two issues that are necessary for a successful program. The first is disposal. I have talked with Gerald Wilson and he has estimated that a mobile home can be recycled in approximately 1-½ hours by his crew. By removing the aluminum, steel and appliances the county can produce revenue of approximately \$285 dollars. His staff has available time during the winter months when they can utilize county equipment to recycle dilapidated mobile homes. Therefore the only cost associated with this would be the landfill space that would be used which he estimates at a value of \$315 dollars. The second issue that arises involves transportation cost to the landfill. Our estimates indicate that approximately \$600 to \$1000 dollars is involved with the relocation of a mobile home. To offset this cost to the owner, I would propose that County institute the following: That the County rebate \$250 dollars, which is derived from the recycling of the mobile home to the owner to help offset the transportation cost. This money would be rebated once the mobile home had been transported to the landfill and a document was signed by the landfill supervisor stating receipt of the mobile home. This document would be returned to the mobile home permitting office for rebate of the \$250 dollars. I propose that the amnesty on all dilapidated mobile homes be granted until September 1, 2007. During this time building and zoning staff will contact absentee owners of dilapidated mobile homes and notify them of this project. Staff will also tag and notify resident owners of mobile homes, which meet the criteria of a dilapidated mobile home. It is our hope that by providing an amnesty period those individuals will comply with the current ordinance and avoid enforcement penalties. Those that do not comply by September 1, 2007 would be subject to having a lien placed on their property and the county would remove these mobile homes and apply the cost of removal to the property.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Contract with South Carolina Department of Transportation for litter pick-up on State Highways.** Motion was made by Chairman Willis, seconded by Roy

Collins and unanimously passed to add to the agenda consideration of a contract regarding litter pick-up on State Highways.

2. **Operations of the Pickens County Library.** Ben Trotter moved to add to the agenda discussion regarding State Law and its provisions for the Library System to function separate from the County. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. Chairman Willis, James London and Roy Collins opposed. Motion failed and the issue was automatically sent to committee.
3. **Funding for employee dinner.** Roy Collins moved to add to the agenda to consider the employee dinner. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
4. **Dilapidated Mobile Home Policy.** Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed to add to the agenda consideration of a policy for dilapidated mobile homes.
5. **Discussion of fee waiver for non-profit.** Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to place waving fees for non-profit organizations in the appropriate committee.
6. **Addition to executive session for SHARE board member.** Chairman Willis moved to add to executive session a Board Appointment to SHARE. Motion was seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed.

STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilman Ponder requested that Mr. Hurst make some recommendations to Council as it relates to committees/work sessions. Mr. Ponder stated he thought Council was not attentive to issues that have been placed in committees and he thought better management of time could be utilized. Mr. Ponder further moved that Mr. Hurst report back to council. Motion was seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed.

CONTRACT WITH SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR LITTER PICK-UP ON STATE HIGHWAYS:

Mr. Hurst explained that South Carolina Department of Transportation has agreed to reimburse a salary for a litter supervisor so that litter can continue to be picked up on State Roads.

>>Councilman Collins moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Tom Ponder. During discussion Mr. Trotter stated this is not a total reimbursement because the County is still responsible for compensation in the event of an accident or injury. Mr. Collins stated the County has always picked up on State Roads and received no assistance from the State, this way at least the County would see some reimbursement. Tom Ponder asked about Highway 123; Mr. Hurst replied that the State would continue to pick up on Highway 123.

>>Motion carried with Tom Ponder, Chairman Willis, James London, and Roy Collins voting in favor; Ben Trotter opposed.

FUNDING FOR EMPLOYEE DINNER:

>>Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Tom Ponder to approve \$10,000.00 from contingency to fund an employee dinner.

DILAPIDATED MOBILE HOME POLICY:

>>Motion was made by Chairman Willis, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to approve the policy for Dilapidated Mobile Homes. Motion included the deadline changing to November 2007.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

>>Motion was made by James London, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

- Appointment to the Library Board
- Chairman Appointment to SHARE Board (added in Motion Period)
- Economic Development

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Willis called the public session back to order and advised no action on the Library Board and no action regarding Economic Development.

SHARE BOARD:

Chairman Willis stated she would recommend the SHARE Board appointment to Dr. Mari Gonlag. Chairman Willis stated the Council office had received a letter from the Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources, Inc. (SHARE) and they requested that the Chairman make the recommendation. Council concurred this to be the Chair's recommendation.

ADJOURN:

With there being no further business before the Pickens County Council, motion to adjourn was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by James London and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman