

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
March 4, 2013
6:30 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 on February 25, 2013

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, V.C. Pro-Tem
Jeff Martin
Trey Whitehurst
Randy Crenshaw

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of March 4, 2013 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Jeff Martin led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to introduce the speakers who have signed up.

- 1) Weldon Clark – Mr. Clark informed Council that he, Mr. Crenshaw, and Chairman Smith were recently at a safety meeting as it relates to resource officers being in every school. Mr. Clark stated there is currently Bill S209 that imposes that armed officers will be in every school. However, this will be very expensive. There is a thought process to having employees of the school who already have concealed weapon permits to provide added safety, but that is an area that would take a change in State Law. Mr. Clark concluded by stating there are currently (16) schools without resource officers in Pickens County.

With no other citizens addressing Council, Chairman Smith declared the public forum closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 4, 2013 and February 18, 2013

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of February 4th, and 18th, 2013 as presented.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

- 1) Demolition of Liberty and Dacusville Schools-Mr. Hurst stated there was funding of \$150,000 for these projects. The county is now looking at proposals to remove asbestos; Liberty has more removal and will take approximately a month. Permits were also obtained to dispose of materials; staff is looking at other uses for bricks and other demolition. Council will be updated as these projects move forward.

- 2) Funding the quick response vehicle (QRV) -Mr. Hurst stated that Council had provided funding in last year's budget for the QRV. During the month of January the vehicle responded 155 times; one of these calls involved a 14 year old patient that needed an emergency airway, this procedure was able to be performed by the personnel on the QRV. Mr. Hurst stated this project would become more meaningful as the mapping system begins to integrate with dispatch in order to provide where all emergency vehicles are in the field. Mr. Hurst stated he will have a statistical report to hand out in the near future.
- 3) 18-Mile Bridge- Mr. Hurst stated while the 18 Mile Bridge is a State bridge, many county citizens call about this bridge. Mr. Hurst stated this is not a bridge that county staff has any jurisdiction. Mr. Whitehurst stated his constituents are very concerned about this bridge, and he urges them to contact the State Department of Transportation and the Legislative Delegation. Mr. Hurst stated this bridge has been out since September 2012, and was slated to be finished in (4) weeks.
- 4) Road Fee- Mr. Hurst stated staff is working on a "Road Paving Presentation Project." Mr. Hurst stated the road fee of \$20.00 has been in place since the inception of the fee, and has never changed. However, the cost of paving has increased. Staff is looking at a cost saving method on some roads that already have a good base. One of these methods is called "fog seal", and the other method is called "sand mix." Mr. Hurst stated staff is going to use each method on a suitable road, and then determine which method is best. This should increase other road paving be 30% - 40%. Mr. Hurst stated this would not be a method for all roads, just roads in need of minimal repair that already has a good foundation, but would preserve the asphalt paving budget.
>>Councilman Jeff Martin stated he would like to see the number of registered vehicles in Pickens County that generates the road fee. He would like those statistics to show 5-10 years. Also, he would like to know the miles of roads that the county is responsible for paving. And, how much the road fee is capable of sustaining those miles. Finally, the cost changes of asphalt over the last 5 years.
Chairman Smith stated that would be discussed in the Budget Work sessions.
- 5) Grants at the Airport-Pickens County has secured (2) grants for the airport. One of the grants would fence in the entire airport. The second grant would be a grant to underbrush and grind up tress at the airport that has caused a variety of issues with pest and other wildlife that are detrimental for close proximity to an airport.
Mr. Hurst stated he would like to have a motion from council to fund the match on these grants which amount to \$85,000. Mr. Hurst stated this can go to committee or be approved this evening; however, time is important for the grants.
>>Chairman Smith stated unless he hears objection, he will request a vote for this to be placed on the agenda. If council objects, he will send this to Administration and Finance.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst asked Mr. Hurst about House Bill 3290. Mr. Hurst stated as he understands the Bill, it states that solid waste will go where the State determines. The county will not be able to pass ordinances or enter into contract with waste management companies. Council discussed this was not final, but so far the bill appears to favor solid waste companies.
- Councilman Trey Whitehurst stated he went to a Savanna River Basin Advisory Committee meeting as a means of understanding more about Lake Hartwell/Corp of Engineers. Mr. Whitehurst stated he did not get many of his questions answered satisfactorily, and at this point he believes there is mismanagement among the authorities, but he will continue to try and understand the process.
- Councilman Jeff Martin reported that he attended the Appalachian Council of Governments meeting (ACOG). Dr. Martin stated the focus was on House Bill 3290.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to add a contractual issue to the executive session.
- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw to add the request for approval of the airport grant match funds. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

REQUEST TO APPROVE AIRPORT FUNDS FOR GRANTS:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to approve \$85,000 in matching funds for (2) airport grants for fencing and wildlife management.

REQUEST TO ADD RICHLAND DRIVE TO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to add Richland Drive to the county road system.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO: 458 TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK OF GREENVILLE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for anyone wanting to speak about Ordinance No.458. Hearing no comments, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing and allowed the following motion.

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 458. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY FROM PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO PROJECT DELTA:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading for said Ordinance.

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT DELTA; THE GRANTING OF SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading for said Ordinance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.
 - Budget Request from Non-County Agencies – Committee of the Whole
 - Southern Wesleyan Presentation, NCAA Application- Committee of the Whole

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.

- Boards and Commissions
- Economic Development Issue
- Contractual Issues (3)
- Legal Update

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Boards and Commissions.

Zoning Board of Appeals-Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to re-appoint Richard Shirley to the Board of Zoning and Appeals.

Alliance Pickens Economic Development- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to appoint Mr. John Given to the Pickens Alliance Economic Development Board, to fill the unexpired term of Ben Cole.

Alliance Pickens Economic Development- Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to re-appoint Justin Winter to the Pickens Alliance Economic Development board for another term.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman