

June 04 2007
Regular Council Meeting
7:00 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, May 16, 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
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER :

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Ben Trotter gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes as written.

PUBLIC FORUM:

1. **Junius Smith.** Mr. Smith came before Council to state he was opposed to the Six Mile Fire District Budget, and further stated some of their items in the budget were wasteful.
2. **Weldon Clark.** Mr. Clark shared with council the fact that if Saco Lowell project brings in jobs, those jobs should pay the debt in three years.
3. **Charles Justice.** Mr. Justice stated he was opposed to the Saco Lowell project especially if it was to be a Wal-Mart. Mr. Justice stated Wal-Mart has negative impacts on areas, and he thinks Pickens County is looking for better development.
4. **Kent Dykes.** Mr. Dykes stated he had recently attended a tourism festival of sorts, which was located at the welcome center on I-85. Mr. Dykes stated Anderson, Greenville, and Oconee County were well represented and had impressive displays to educate what was unique in their county to visit. Mr. Dykes gave Council a handout of issues Pickens County needs to address to get tourism up and running in Pickens County. One issue Mr. Dykes wanted was for Council to consider supporting a Tourism Leadership Council.
5. **Roy Collins.** Mr. Collins asked Council to place on the agenda the naming of Central Bridge. Mr. Collins requested this bridge be named for the Boggs family. Mr. Collins stated the Boggs family owns much of the property, and have been

active citizens in the Central/Clemson area. Mr. Collins asked that this be placed in committee.

6. **Ronnie Duncan.** Mr. Duncan introduced himself as the Six Mile Fire Chief and stated he thought the Six Mile Fire District was being judged harshly for this year's budget. Mr. Duncan stated the fire district had been specific about items instead of putting everything in a lump sum, and now they are being criticized. Mr. Duncan further stated the fire district operates very efficiently.

With no other citizens desiring to speak, Chairman Smith closed the Public Forum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Administration and Finance.** Chairman Smith gave the following report:

The Administration and Finance Committee met in the Main Conference Room with Chairman Smith presiding, all committee members were in attendance.

Other Council Members:
Ben Trotter

Staff:
Chappell Hurst – Administrator
Lynn Fisher – Assistant Administrator
Donna Owen – Clerk to Council
Ralph Guarino – Finance Director
Jennifer Graham – Human Resources Director
David Day – Tax Assessor

Item	Description		Previous Action
10	Report by the Aeronautics Commission Retained 12/04/2006		No action, council of the whole heard from the Aeronautics Commission on May 21, 2007. Terminal Project is budgeted and council will look at plans as they progress. Chairman Smith stated while there is no action he wanted to remind council that the airport terminal is proceeding and if council members want information on plans as they progress, to talk with their airport representative.
21	Study the County Benefit Package Retained 12/04/2006		Committee request the following: see attached The policy was approved as presented with Tom Ponder and Ben Trotter opposing. Opposing Council stated they were under the assumption that new employees only would follow the new policy and that existing employees would be grandfathered with no change.
32	Ordinance relating to the Brunswick Yarn Manufacturing Facility		Committee recommends this issue out of committee for a second reading. The Clerk and Attorney will determine public hearings and third reading dates, as state law provides for this ordinance to have a 45-day notice.

			Council approved.
37	Request for tax notice to be split in (2) separate notices regarding 1 county bill and 1 school district.		Committee recommends tax notices to provide a breakout of school tax from prior year and show on future tax notices. >>approved
38	Request from the Six Mile Fire District for funds regarding repair/upgrade to brush truck		Committee recommends denying the request.
39	Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Committee.		Committee approved the recommendations with the deduction of \$2,000 from Pickens Azalea Festival; \$2,000 from the upper State Fair. Addition of \$4,000 to the Hagood Mill Marketing Project. Council amended that Liberty Idol be funded at \$5,000; to remove \$3,000 from the upper State fair; remove \$2,000 from Upcountry Advertising. Chairman Smith advised that it was requested that new festivals should take precedence over the more established.
40	Request for eligibility for Tax Credits from Old Sir Shirt-maker Manufacturing		Committee recommends a first reading providing the manufacturing plant meet provisions of state law. (staff will check necessary criteria) >>approved
41	Request from the City of Central to escrow paving funds for one project.		Committee approved escrowing funds until the City is ready for paving. >>Approved
42	Consideration of White Project request		Committee recommends striking from the log. >>Approved

2. **Public Service: Committee** Chairman Ponder gave the following report:

The Committee of Public Service met in the Main Conference room with Committee Chairman Tom Ponder presiding. All Committee Members were in attendance.

Other Council Members:

Ben Trotter
Randy Crenshaw
Staff:

Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
 Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
 Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
 Bo Beauchemin, Roads and Bridges

Item	Description		
8	Assistance with Dacusville Recreation Retained 12/04/06		Committee recommends this item be removed from the log as it is completed. >>approved
21	3 & 4 Way Stop signs policy		Committee recommends for staff to clarify minutes of homeowners associations when requests are made from neighborhoods asking for Stop Signs. All 3 & 4 way Stop sign request are to come before Council for approval. >>approved
22	Acceptance of Spring Estates Drive and Spring Oaks Court into the county road system		Committee recommends approval. >>approved
24	Study Ordinance No. 333 Road Ord. as it relates to: 1- Use of Tar and Gravel 2- Permanent Easements for right of ways		Committee recommends \$150,000 from contingency for Tar and Gravel for use of minimum maintenance roads. Staff will bring back a list to the Committee and provide information regarding what can be done for the set amount of funds. >>approved Committee recommends first reading of an ordinance to amend ordinance No. 333 to allow permanent easements for right-of- ways >>approved 1 st reading to amend
25	Request for easement at Table Rock Recycling Center.		Committee recommends approval of easement request, and will proceed with purchase agreement at a later date. >>approved

3. Justice and Public Safety: Committee Chairman Trotter gave the following report:

The Committee of Justice and Public Safety held its committee meeting in the Main Conference Room, with Committee Chairman Ben Trotter presiding. Committee Member Randy Crenshaw was in attendance; James London was absent.

Staff:
 Chappell Hurst – Administrator
 Lynn Fisher – Assistant Administrator
 Olivia Vassey – Special Projects Coordinator

Also in attendance were several members of the Fire Districts and Municipal agencies

Item	Description	Referred	Report
10	Fire District Contracts with municipalities.	05/07/21	<p>Committee recommends that all fire districts continue for this fiscal year, however next budget year all contracts must be approved by Council and contracts should be for no more than 5 years.</p> <p>>>council approved</p>
11	Request from the Cliffs for a special fire district in the Six Mile Area.	05/21/07	<p>Committee recommends a courtesy first reading of an ordinance to create a special tax district for a fire district known as the Springs. Also all cost associated for forming the district will be at the districts expense.</p> <p>>>approved 1st reading</p>

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Mr. Hurst updated council on several issues, none of which needed council action.

1. County Signs - Mr. Hurst presented the signs that would be present when county employees were working on roads or other projects. Also, he presented the litter crew signs that state “Pickens County Picking up after You.”
2. Sewer Projects - Mr. Hurst updated council on the Cramer and Roper projects and stated work began on the Cramer project. The Roper upgrade design was delivered to DHEC. Expectation is approximately six weeks for permit. In addition, Chimney Ridge is installing 500 ft of sewer, and that project is going well. Finally, Sealevel has obtained the \$88,000 needed for sewer.
3. Real Estate Closure- the Property adjoining the landfill now belongs to Pickens County.
4. Central Commercial Refuse.--Administrator updated Council about the recent discrepancies with the town of Central regarding the rates for commercial garbage. Mr. Hurst informed Council that the Town had stated the county was correct with their estimates and apologized for the misunderstanding.
5. Fleet Maintenance Software- Mr. Hurst updated Council about the new software being used at Vehicle Maintenance Department. Mr. Hurst stated the old program caused several problems because it was known as a “stand alone” program.
6. Patrol Rifles Grant- Mr. Hurst stated the Department of Public Safety has provided that the recent rifle grant submitted from the Sheriff’s Office has been denied. This will be reconsidered should additional funds become available.
7. Quail Haven Grants- Mr. Hurst informed Council that the State has advised the Quail Haven Project is eligible. However, Pickens County has been placed on a wait list, due to many projects having a higher priority. In addition, the county has received the \$250,000, but has not heard from the other (2) grants for this project.
8. Workers’ Compensation Renewal- Mr. Hurst provided the Workers Comp. renewal will not increase. Mr. Hurst thanked staff and especially the risk management team for their efforts to keep these costs down.
9. Certificate of Achievement—Mr. Hurst informed Council about Ralph Guarino receiving the CAFRA award for 2006. Mr. Hurst stated this is the highest award given for excellence in financial reporting.

Council Questions/comments

1. Retiree Certificates. Tom Ponder stated he wants to continue recognizing retirees at council Meetings.
2. Plaque – Mr. Trotter stated he liked the Weldon Day plaque and thanked staff for doing an awards wall.
3. Hiring within Pickens County – Mr. Trotter requested that Pickens County residents to be hired whenever possible.
4. Twelve Mile River Update. James London provided Council with a memorandum from Larry Dyck, updating council regarding the status on the PCB Settlement. Dr. London stated Council needs to meet and discuss this issue with the Natural Resource Trustees. Chairman Smith stated he would look at this for the June work session.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. Central Bridge - Randy Crenshaw moved to add to committee the naming of Central Bridge. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
2. Central Community Center- Randy Crenshaw moved to add to committee a request for assistance at the Old Central Community Center. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
3. Tourism Committee - Jennifer Willis moved to add to committee the request to support and form a Tourism Committee. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE FINANCING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF CERTAIN SEWER TREATMENT FACILITIES IN PICKENS COUNTY, THROUGH THE BORROWING OF NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,050,000) FROM THE STATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING FUND.

>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve a first reading of an Ordinance to create the financing for the improvement, construction and equipping of the Cramer facilities.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 388, BUDGET AMENDMENT TO AMEND THE FY 2006 2007 BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 379:

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by James London and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of a budget amendment to amend the 2006/2007 Budget Ordinance No. 379.

Chairman Smith stated this is simply housekeeping items for the current fiscal year.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 389 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 230 SECTION 38-53:

>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this provide second reading of Ordinance No. 388 to amend Ordinance No. 230 as it relates to public sewer and to eliminate the 300 foot ruling.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 387 FY 2007/2008 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

Chairman Smith called for the motion that this constitutes third and final reading of Ordinance No. 387, FY 2007/2008 Budget.

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder; Chairman Smith gave a second and called for discussion and or amendments, following a 5-minute recess.

Chairman Smith announced the return from a short recess and called upon Council for amendments.

1. Ben Trotter moved to increase the Vineyards Fire District budget by \$5,000, the increase will be for a truck. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
2. Ben Trotter moved to amend the Holly Springs budget to increase by \$1,000 in order to allow them to continue the point system. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
3. Ben Trotter moved to remove the requested caterpillar from the Roads and Bridges Department. Mr. Trotter stated this piece of equipment was too large for this area. Mr. Trotter amended his original motion to state he would place this in committee for more in-depth discussion, thus, this would freeze these funds. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Public Service Committee referral.
4. Ben Trotter moved to remove \$16,500 from the Stormwater budget and to utilize a truck that was currently part of the county fleet. This truck is at vehicle maintenance. Tom Ponder stated the truck that Mr. Trotter is referring to is an older truck and was not economical. Ben Trotter withdrew his motion for the purpose of staff to look at the situation. Neil Smith requested the Administrator to report to council.
5. Ben Trotter moved to remove the planning technician position and to add a Grants Coordinator. Motion was seconded by Chairman Smith. Tom Ponder stated both positions were important. James London stated a grants coordinator can pay for themselves and agrees there is too much money left on the table. However, he would not subsidize planning for the position. Ralph Guarino stated the funds would net approximately \$25,000. Motion carried with Ben Trotter, Chairman Smith, Tom Ponder, and Randy Crenshaw voting in favor, Jennifer Willis and James London opposed.
6. Ben Trotter moved to freeze funding for the proposed EMS station in Easley, and for site selection to come back to council. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Site selection to come before the Administration and Finance Committee.
7. Motion was made by Ben Trotter to freeze funds for tourism. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith. During discussion, Jennifer Willis stated she thought it was clear that funding was going to the Chambers for the printing of brochures. Ralph Guarino stated the Chambers were the selected organization to receive the 30% money and it was his understanding that this year (2006/2007) those funds were going for the brochures. Neil Smith stated he interprets Mr. Trotter's motion to be for next year (2007/2008) funds to be frozen in order for council to look at funds for a tourism board. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

8. Ben Trotter moved to freeze the (1-mill) recreation funds so council could better organize recreational needs. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith. Tom Ponder stated some recreation departments did not have the municipality and really depended upon those funds. Tom Ponder and James London opposed; Neil Smith, Ben Trotter, Jennifer Willis, and Randy Crenshaw approved. Motion carried.
9. Ben Trotter moved to change the fire rates for Easley Rural. However, Mr. Trotter removed his motion from the table as the discussion lead to impacts of budget, and the fact that the Justice and Public Safety Committee have ruled all current fire contracts will stand until next fiscal year.
10. Ben Trotter moved to remove from the budget (\$16,338) which is part of the Town Clerk's salary from the Six Mile Fire budget. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. James London cautioned Council that municipalities are different. All voted in favor with the exception of James London, who opposed.
11. Ben Trotter moved to remove the fire chief salary of \$6,500.00 from the Six Mile Fire District budget. Motion was withdrawn.
12. Ben Trotter moved to eliminate benefit costs associated with payroll taxes the Six Mile Fire District budget as it relates to the salary for the Town Clerk. (\$3,577) Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. Motion carried with James London opposing. All other council voted in the affirmative.
13. Ben Trotter moved to eliminate the fees for the Attorney in the Six Mile Fire District budget. (\$2,500) Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. All members voted in favor with the exception of James London, who opposed. Motion carried.
14. Ben Trotter moved to eliminate the fees for the Auditors Fee in the Six Mile Fire District budget. (\$2,750) Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
15. Ben Trotter moved to eliminate the cost associated with insurance in the Six Mile Fire District budget, (\$2,550) as it relates to the Town Clerk. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. All members voted in favor with the exception of James London, who opposed. Motion carried.
16. James London moved to honor the Library request to leave copy charges \$.15, with the exception of the Carolina Room, which will go to \$.25 Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.
17. Jennifer Willis moved to hold planning and building permit fees at the current rates. Mrs. Willis stated she did not want to discourage development within Pickens County. James London stated he thought fee based departments should be self-supportive and disagreed that an increase in permit fees would discourage growth. Randy Crenshaw seconded the motion. All voted in favor with the exception to Tom Ponder and James London. Motion carried.
18. Jennifer Willis moved to remove one wheel chair van from the budget. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. Ben Trotter asked about the citizens who needed

the transport. Mr. Hurst stated the non-emergency transport would still take place. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Smith called for any other amendments. Hearing none Mr. Smith commented that if development in the county progressed, the fees could be looked at during the budget year.

>>>Third and final reading of Budget Ordinance No. 387 as amended passed with James London opposing and all other council voting in the affirmative.

CONSENT AGENDA:

>>Motion was made by James London, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

1. Acceptance of Roads in the County Road System
Honeycomb Lane, Edens Oak Ct, Edens Ridge Drive, Edens Garden Way, Edens School Rd, Browning Heights Way, and Breanna Ct. Referred to the Public Service Committee
2. Shady Acres request for minimum maintenance, Public Service Committee
3. Request to name the Central Bridge in the Boggs family name. referred to Planning Commission (under council rules)
4. Request from the Central Community Building for assistance. Administration and Finance Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

- Appointments to Boards-Pumpkintown Fire District

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the Public Session back to order and advised the following motion.

>>Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder moved to appoint Dan Evett to fill the unexpired term of David Crowe regarding to the Pumpkintown Fire District. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman