

Special Called Pickens County Council Meeting  
October 19, 2015  
5:00 p.m.

County Council met in a special called session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Jennifer Willis presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media on October 16, 2015.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman  
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem  
G. Neil Smith  
Randy Crenshaw  
Ensley Feemster

Absent--Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator  
Ken Roper, County Attorney  
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Willis called the special called meeting of October 19, 2015 to order and further led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a) (2)**

- Legal Update- Vacant Land Fire Fees

Chairman Willis called for a motion to go into executive session for the stated purpose of legal update on the vacant land fire fees. With no motion to convene into executive session, there was no executive session.

**ACTION ON VACANT LAND FIRE FEES AS APPROPRIATE:**

Councilman Neil Smith moved to approve the resolution as drafted by Ken Roper to revoke the vacant land fire fee. Councilman Randy Crenshaw gave the second.

Chairman Willis stated the language of the Resolution is to repeal effective immediately the fire fees on vacant land. Ms. Willis stated this is based on the feedback Council has received from the citizens as well as the County Attorney. Ms. Willis stated a new tax bill will go out to those land owners, and if your taxes have been paid, refunds will be made.

Councilman Neil Smith also amended the motion that because this was done in the Budget Ordinance, this would include a first reading in title only to amend the FY 15/16 Budget. Randy Crenshaw accepted that amendment. All members present voted in favor that this will constitute a first reading of a budget amendment ordinance. Ms. Willis stated the fire fee issue will go back to the committee. (*placed in the Committee of the Whole as part of overall fire issues* )

Councilman Neil Smith further amended the resolution for the budget amendment to reflect that Pickens County does not want to participate in the relocation program. Mr. Smith explained the Federal Government is pursuing this program, and there is a budget proviso that states that Counties can choose to participate or not. Therefore, the motion is to not participate in the Refugee Resettlement Program and is

made in the form of an amendment to the current budget amendment. Councilman Tom Ponder gave the second. All members present voted in favor of the amendment.

Chairman Willis called the question for approval of the resolution/budget amendment as amended. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Willis called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder seconded Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

*(see minutes of the 6:30 p.m. meeting for further discussion on fire fees)*

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman