

February 7, 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, January 31, 2011.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman  
G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman  
Tom Ponder, VC Pro-Tem  
Jeff Martin

Absent:

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 February 7, 2011 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mrs. Willis further noted the absence of Councilmen Whitehurst and Wyche. Chairman Willis gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Willis opened the floor for Public Forum and asked the Clerk to announce the citizens.

1. Henry Wilson, Philip Smith, David Merck, Junius Smith, Johnnelle Raines, and Ken Butt. All these citizens came to the podium individually to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and their concerns about Pickens County as it relates to this plan. Many of the citizens believe the plan influences a control force that will enable government to have too much control over land use and private property rights. Others were expressing the fact that they realized the use of a Comprehensive Plan, but would like to see one more characteristic of a capitalist society, and more unique to Pickens County. Also, Mr. Wilson offered his services to do seminars for better clarity of the balance of land use and property rights. In addition, citizens pointed out that during the Pickens County Delegation Meeting, Senator Larry Martin had informed the citizens that the Comprehensive Plan did not need to be adopted and only a few Counties in South Carolina had chosen to adopt one.

>>Council did respond by informing the Citizens that the Comprehensive Plan is in the Committee of the Whole, and further stated that by S.C. State Law, Counties that represent a Planning Commission, road paving, and Development Standards, do in fact have to respond to the laws which state that a Comprehensive Plan must be in place.

2. Dennis Reinert- thanked Council for his recent appointment to the planning commission. Mr. Reinert also mentioned that Mr. Hurst had recently published several of the counties accomplishments, and further noted these accomplishments have been done during difficult economic times. Mr. Reinert stated he would personally say that hiring Mr. Hurst was an accomplishment. Mr. Reinert stated since he is serving on the Planning Commission he does realize the comprehensive plan is directly tied to development standards and infrastructure. Actually, Mr. Reinert stated the Development Standards would be worked on as a result of the comprehensive plan, as the DSO was the strength of the comprehensive plan.
3. Elizabeth Tickle-Ms. Tickle came to Council with an issue about property on the Saluda River. Ms. Tickle stated that DHEC, Department of Health and Environmental Control, were placing rock vanes in the river, and property owners were extremely concerned about erosion and public access. Ms. Tickle delivered information to Council and ask if they could advise her on which political subdivisions would be applicable to her complaint.
4. Tom Hendricks- Mr. Hendricks commented that Brad Wyche cost Pickens millions of dollars. Mr. Hendricks stated the Comprehensive Plan is directly tied to several grants and road funding, and Senator Martin realized those facts. He stated he would advise Council to ask Senator Martin to write a letter stating that if the County was rejected of any funding or grant proposals, that Mr. Martin would make sure the funds would be made up by the State, since he had advised Pickens County that there is no need for a Comprehensive Plan.
5. Bill Johnston- Mr. Johnston wondered why none of the Council Members were not at the annual meeting when Mr. Martin made his remarks on the Comprehensive Plan.

>>Chairman Willis stated that part of the process is trying to form better relationships with municipal and State representatives. However, all elected bodies do have their own meetings and it is not physically possible to be at all political meetings.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of January 18, 2011.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Hurst informed Council of the following.

1. E-911 press release-Mr. Hurst stated the county is doing a good job educating citizens on the importance of correct addressing. Mr. Hurst explained that when 911 is utilized, the dispatcher must be able to locate the caller's location.
2. Snow Storm-Mr. Hurst informed Council that FEMA, Federal Emergency Management, was getting details from Pickens County as a result of our snow storm. Mr. Hurst stated it is likely the County will be reimbursed for the expense of the storm. Again, Mr. Hurst pointed out what a good job the Public Works department and the emergency staff did during the storm.
3. Stormwater Permitting- Mr. Hurst stated that DHEC, Department of Health and Environmental Control, would be at West-End on March 2, 2011 to update Stormwater staff, building code staff, elected officials, citizens, and contractors, about the new permitting laws. Mr. Hurst stated this would be a luncheon beginning at 11:30 am. And would encourage attendance.
4. Crosswell Fire District will be evaluated in February for the rating as a standalone district. Mr. Hurst stated the Crosswell Department has done very well, and he expects a good ISO rating as a result.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning:**

Chairman Willis gave the following report in lieu of Committee Chairman Wyche absence.

The Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and Planning Committee met in the Board Room at 12:00 January 25, 2011. All Committee Members were in attendance with Committee Chairman, Sam Wyche presiding.

Committee:  
Sam Wyche, Chairman  
Jennifer Willis  
Jeff Martin

Other Council Members:  
Neil Smith

Staff:  
Chappell Hurst, County Administrator  
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

<i><b>Item</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>	<i><b>Referred</b></i>	<i><b>Action</b></i>
<b>1</b>	Request for support of a wellness Center	12/06/2010	No action, staff has requested more information.
<b>2</b>	Discussion relating to the Pickens Gym	12/06/2010	No action, committee and staff will continue to collaborate with the City of Pickens to look at potential cost for repairing the building for multipurpose uses.

**Public Service:**

Committee Chairman Tom Ponder gave the following report:

The Committee of Public Service met in the Board Room at 12:00 noon on Thursday January 27, 2011. All Committee members were in attendance with Committee Chairman Tom Ponder presiding.

Other members of Council:  
Jeff Martin

Staff:  
Chappell Hurst, County Administrator  
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council  
Gerald Wilson, Roads and Bridges Director  
Lou Holder, Recycling Director

Tom Ponder, Chairman  
Neil Smith  
Trey Whitehurst

Log	Description	Report
4	Study road system prescriptive easements/right of ways for all county roads  Policy regarding Utility easements  Retain 12/21/2009	No action committee did combine the two issues.
14	Policy regarding utility easements  Retained 12/2010	Staff will be ready to present in 90 days.
15	<a href="#">Puckett Mill Drive and Puckett Mill Way</a>	Committee recommends acceptance of Puckett Mill Drive and Puckett Mill Way into the County Road System  >>council approved
16	<a href="#">Request for removing a State road and giving to Pickens County</a>	Committee recommends acceptance from the State Department of Transportation of F. Van Clayton Hwy  >>council approved
17	<a href="#">Acceptance of Ladd Lane</a>	Committee recommends acceptance of Ladd Lane into the County Road System—motion also includes that future roads will be on the regular agenda once staff has inspected.  >>committee approved
18	<a href="#">Waste disposal options</a> <a href="#">Intergovernmental agreement</a> <a href="#">Old disposal agreement</a>	Committee recommends entering into an intergovernmental agreement with Greenville County for waste disposal.  >>committee approved

#### **COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Willis gave the following correspondence:

- 1) Chairman Willis stated that Council had held a retreat on February 4, 2011 and the goals were very positive, and council had all agreed to keep the budget reduced as much as possible, and to succeed in not having a tax increase. Chairman Willis did state the County is still awaiting state cuts.
- 2) Chairman Willis reminded Council about the schedule for the Traveling Trash Bash that was presented in the schools in order to educate elementary school age children about recycling. Chairman Willis further encouraged council to attend.
- 3) Chairman Willis presented Neil Smith for his two terms as Chairman to Pickens County Council, and thanked him for his service and leadership for those terms. Mrs. Willis expressed a well deserved break from those responsibilities.
- 4) Mr. Smith stated since Senator Martin has stated no need for a Comprehensive Plan; it would appear that that the old plan could be updated with the new census numbers.  
>Mr. Hurst stated he would check on that request; County Attorney, Ken Roper stated the plan, by law must be updated with new statistics and goals.

#### **MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Jeff Martin to add to the consent agenda the Saluda River issue presented by Ms. Tickle. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

#### **REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS FOR APPLICATION FOR FUNDS THROUGH THE**

**SCDOT STATE MASS TRANSIT DIVISION FOR PURCHASE OF A SPECIAL NEEDS VEHICLE:**

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to provide a letter to the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

Refer to Administration and Finance Committee:

- Worthless Check agreement

Refer to Committee of the Whole:

- Update on Twelve Mile River
- Saluda River item-(amended during motion period)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.
  - Legal update
  - Personnel update
  - Boards and Commissions
  - Contractual Issue

**Public Session Reconvened:**

Chairman Willis called the public meeting back to order and allowed the following motions.

Crosswell Fire: Tom Ponder moved to reappoint Tim Cobb and Alvin Duncan, motion was seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed.

Dacusville Fire: Tom Ponder moved to reappoint Don Holloway and Peggy James, motion was seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed.

Easley Fire: Chairman Willis moved to reappoint Billy Grant and Shannon Ducker, also the new appointment of JB Kelly. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further business, Chairman Willis called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman

