

September 14, 2009
Regular Council Meeting
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media, September 10, 2009.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
Tom Ponder
Sam Wyche

Clerk to Council: Donna Owen

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of September 14, 2009 to order and welcomed those in attendance. James London was called upon for the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith asked the Clerk for a list of citizens signed up for Public Forum.

1. Skip Burnette and Ray Cassell with the South Carolina Forestry Service presented council with a check from the Poe Forest receipts. Mr. Burnette stated these funds are the 25% refunding agreement which is paid to the county for educational purposes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of August 17, 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning- Jennifer Willis gave the following report:

Meeting of the Education Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning was held on Thursday, September 10, at 9:30 AM in the Main Conference Room at the County Administration Building.

Item	Description	Referred	
2	Cemetery Project	03/02/09	No Action – Staff presented the sign and stated 50 plus signs have been placed. Mr. Hurst also stated that the committee that has formed to identify the cemeteries was doing an excellent job.
5	Twelve Mile River Issues	05/18/09	>Committee recommends approval of the resolution to support the removal of the third dam. >>Council approved with Randy Crenshaw voting in opposition.

Public Service Committee: Tom Ponder gave the following Report:

Meeting of the Public Service Committee held on Monday, September 14, at 6:00 PM in the Council Conference Room at the County Administration Building.

Item	Description	Referred		Action
9	Addition to paving list	07/20/09		>Committee recommends the addition to the paving list as presented with the exception of adding Inverness Way, and removing Caren Drive and Hidden Cove. >>Council approved.
10	Consider Knoll Street as minimum maintenance	08/17/09		>>Committee recommends approval. >Council concurred.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst reported the following items to council –

Cemetery Signs- Mr. Hurst presented council with a sample of the sign that was going up at all the identified cemeteries in Pickens County. Mr. Hurst stated that Olivia Vassey and the committee have done an excellent job with this process. To date there are 50 signs, and slight modifications will be made to the next order.

River-sweep Mr. Hurst stated the Clemson Extension would host the cleaning of Town Creek- Mr. Hurst stated the clean up time is. Sat. Sept. 19th at 7:30 AM- 10:00 AM, and volunteers need to contact Margaret Porter.

Bridge Closing - Mr. Hurst announced bridge closing on State Highways, one on Oloeny Church Road will be closed September 16, 2009 – February 2010. The other is on Sheffield Road and will be closed September 9, 2009 – December 31, 2009.

H1N1 Flu- Mr. Hurst stated that Pickens County is working with health officials, schools, and hospitals as it relates to the flu and arrival of vaccine. Mr. Hurst also noted that the H1N1 symbol is located on the Pickens County website which is accurate information from the Center of Disease Control.

Recreation Plan- Mr. Hurst stated the consultants have finished their public forum on the recreation plan, and now they are ready to meet with Council for input.

Energy grants- Mr. Hurst reported a grant in progress for saving funds on light bulbs and other energy savings as it relates to lighting and fluorescent lights. Mr. Hurst stated if the grant is successful it would cost \$66,900, but save over \$266,000 in lighting expenses. Mr. Hurst did state the County was successful with the grant to convert vehicles to propane. Pickens County will convert forty (40) vehicles which will save 5,460 gallons of petroleum monthly.

Tri-County Energy Savings Expo- Pickens County will present the bio-diesel and other steps that Pickens County is taking to save energy and money. This expo is being held in Anderson on Friday September 18th from 4:30 – 8:00 PM. Mr. Hurst stated this expo includes several counties as well as Duke Energy and Blue Ridge Electric.

Fund Balance- Mr. Hurst informed Council that during the year-end closing it was obvious that the county's fund balance comes from department heads coming in under budget, and they really work hard to save the tax payers money. Thus, Mr. Hurst wanted to publicly thank his staff for such a good job.

WorkForce Program- Mr. Hurst reported that high school GED enrollment is up 28%, and one-hundred ninety – six (196) students enrolled for their GED, and the County Plan paid for 150. Mr. Hurst stated the County still has 50% of those funds, and they are going to good use. Thirty-one (31) individuals have graduated from the fast track program.

Customer Service Cards- Mr. Hurst stated that since the customer service program was implemented, that over 700 report cards have been turned in to administration. Mr. Hurst stated out of a possible 4.0 the customer service is rating 3.94. Mr. Hurst stated this is a good project for rating Customer Service.

Air Quality- Mr. Hurst reminded Council about EPA and DHEC as it relates to the Pickens County monitor for air quality. Mr. Hurst stated DHEC has now created a map placing Pickens County in non-attainment, and the monitor is still in place at Clemson, which was promised to be removed and not used because of its location. Mr. Hurst stated he had concerns about the County being labeled, and further stated this would be devastating to the infrastructure and plans for the Highway 123 Corridor.

..Council agreed that communications had to take place between the County, EPA, and DHEC, in order to come to resolution about this issue. Chairman Smith stated it is almost as if the County is being punished before the rules are known. Chairman Smith stated he would add a legal issue to the executive session.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jennifer Willis moved to place in committee the economic development ordinance for amendments. Motion was seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed. Administration and Finance Committee.
2. Neil Smith moved to add to executive session a legal issue, motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

GREENVILLE TRANSIT AUTHORITY PROPOSAL:

Council was given a proposal from Greenville Transit Authority concerning a Federal grant intended to benefit public transit services in Greenville and Pickens Counties. The grant was described as a focus on Greenville and Pickens Counties for a regional bus rapid transit system.

Council showed some concerns about cost, and what entities would have responsibility for funding. Also Council member Tom Ponder stated the county is so rural, that many citizens would not benefit. Chairman Smith stated he simply did not have enough information, and he did not feel comfortable agreeing to something at the last minute. Chairman Smith also posed the question as to why the county is just now hearing about this grant.

James London stated he would like to know more, but thought it irresponsible not to be involved in some capacity. Dr. London stated if the grant were successful, he thought Pickens County should be in the loop.

Sam Wyche asked if this was something that should have further study. Chairman Smith stated his motion would be not to approve, however a council member from the prevailing side could bring the issue back at a later time, but right now there was too many unknowns.

>>Chairman Smith made the motion to not approve the request for endorsement, Tom Ponder seconded the motion. Neil Smith, Tom Ponder, Sam Wyche, Randy Crenshaw, and Jennifer Willis voted in favor of the motion. James London opposed. Motion carried.

APPALACHIAN COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR PICKENS COUNTY:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the Appalachian Council of Government Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MILLAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to approve the 2009/10 millage.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION STATING LEGAL POLICY FOR COUNCIL ACTING IN CONTEXT TO THE ELECTED OFFICE:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the resolution for council to have legal representation when acting in the capacity of the official office. It was clarified that this does not indicate council to be represented in all cases, but protection for council as they perform as elected officials.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman Smith stated council had added (1) item to the consent agenda.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.
 - a. Education, Health, Welfare, and County Planning – Renewable Water Resources/ executive plan for sewer growth and long range planning
 - b. Administration and Finance Committee - Economic Development Ordinance

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Chairman Smith stated council had added (1) item to executive session.
- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

Contractual update
legal matter (added)

Boards and Commissions as needed or requested
Six Mile Water District
Board of Zoning and Appeals

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Appointments:

Six Mile Water - Randy Crenshaw moved to appoint Scott Holder and Gary Stancell to the Six Mile Water District. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Board of Zoning and Appeals- Randy Crenshaw moved to re-appoint Joe Martin to the Board of zoning and Appeals. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith recognized the motion to adjourn from Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County