

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
April 1, 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 March 25, 2013

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman
Jeff Martin
Trey Whitehurst
Randy Crenshaw

Absent: Jennifer H. Willis, V.C. Pro-Tem

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Absent: 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 Trey Whitehurst 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) Beautification Committee- Gina McClellan came before Council to represent the Beautification Committee, and to detail that they are in their 12th year of presenting the Traveling Trash Bash. This program goes into all (16) elementary schools in Pickens County to teach children about recycling, composting, water conservation, beautification, litter control and run-off pollution. Ms. McClellan and the committee thanked Council for all they do to assist in these endeavors.
>Council applauded the efforts of the Beautification Committee and explained to the public that this is a volunteer group who do so much work in beautification education, as well as physical work with the welcome signs and litter crews.
- 2) Junius Smith-(Prayer) Mr. Smith spoke before Council on the importance of keeping prayer in the public meeting. Mr. Smith stated it was unconstitutional for there to be ruling against prayer. In addition, Mr. Smith stated that it would not be wrong for there to be other forms of prayer because America is a free society. However, it was noted by Mr. Smith that the majority of Pickens County is of the Christian faith.
(Railroad) Mr. Smith also added that the citizens who have property on the railroad right of way have retained legal counsel. This is not a lawsuit on the local level, but on the Federal level.
- 3) Weldon Clark-Mr. Clark stated he hoped the Council would present a balanced budget for 2013/2014 with no tax increase.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst reported the following items to Council.

- 1) Reunion of Upcountry Families-April 25-27, 2013 Southern Wesleyan University will host the event. This event is growing and is a means for families who are interested in genealogy to trace family roots.
- 2) Road paving – Mr. Hurst recently informed Council that Public Works was exploring the possibility of using a less expensive asphalt on moderate to good roads. The first experiment will be done on Friday April 5th, at 11:00 AM, on Foot Street in Central. The other road in Central will be done at 1:00 PM on Cross Creek. If the weather is rainy on Friday, the paving will be done at the same time on Saturday. This paving will demonstrate the fog seal method. The second method is the sand mix, and those demonstrations will be scheduled when the weather reaches above 70 degrees. The sand mix will be done on Mills Court in Liberty.
- 3) Budget Highlights- Mr. Hurst stated the budget was on the agenda for first reading, and he stated the budget was balanced with no tax increase. Mr. Hurst stated a magistrate was requested, as well as building improvements at the Law Enforcement center. Mr. Hurst stated that some of the elected officials have requested meeting with Council during budget work sessions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration and Finance- Chairman Smith gave the following report.

The committee of Administration and Finance met in the Main Conference Room at 5:00 PM on March 18, 2013. Notice was advertised to local media on Thursday, March 14, 2013. All members were in attendance with Chairman Smith presiding.

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Jimmy Threat, GIS Director
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Guest:

Tom Whitted
John Gumpert

Item	Description	Report from Committee	
28	Dissemination policy		Committee recommends approval of the changes in the dissemination policy, and that GIS staff incorporate their trademark when transmitting hard copy and electronic. Also, the committee stated approval at the administrative level on this policy when it pertains to State law changes. >>council approved
29	Cultural commission Board -- First reading 06/18/2012 Retained 2012		Committee recommends second reading to amend the ordinance to provide for 7 members, and for the membership to re-organize with staggered (4) year terms. >>council approved
30	Aeronautics Board Retained 2012		Committee recommends a first reading to amend the ordinance to provide for a membership of (4) years. >>council approved
32	Textile Mill Conversion Project Retained 2012		Committee recommends second reading of an ordinance for the Easley textile mill conversion.

First reading: 09/10/2012		>>council approved
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Committee of the Whole- Chairman Smith gave the following report.

The committee of the Council of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room at 6:30 PM on March 18, 2013. Notice was advertised to local media on Thursday, March 14, 2013. All members were in attendance with Chairman Smith presiding.

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Rodney Herd, EMS Director
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Guest:

Chris Williams

Item	Description	Committee Report
7	Twelve Mile River Updates	This item will come off the log as EPA will hold their public hearing as requested. The meeting will be April 11, 2013 at 6:30 PM. (this will be a meeting of EPA, not council)
16	Ordinance regarding EMS franchise issues Retained 2012	Committee recommends a first reading of an Ordinance to establish the exclusive means of providing emergency ambulance services within Pickens County. >>council approved
20	Budget Request from Non-County Agencies	No action, committee discussed budget work sessions and gathered information regarding non-county agencies' request.
21	Wesleyan Presentation, NCAA Application-	No action, committee heard a presentation from the athletic director at Southern Wesleyan as it relates to their NCAA application.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

GPATS Seat-Chairman Smith stated the GPATS committee has placed another seat on the board for Pickens County and he and Jennifer Willis would be serving on this board.

Work Session- Chairman Smith stated the council would have a budget work session on April 15, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business.

- 1) Chairman Smith stated he would request, in the form of a motion that item number (13) be moved to executive session as a contractual matter, and he would also add another contractual matter to the executive session as it relates to the Liberty property. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Hearing no further items, Chairman Smith closed Motion Period.

REQUEST TO ADD BROOK MEADOW AND BROOK MEADOW WAY INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM:

- Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to bring these roads into the county road system.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT CT, THE CODE NAME FOR A SOUTH CAROLINA CORPORATION, WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY, WHEREBY SUCH PROPERTY WILL BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of said ordinance.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCES NO. 384,410,424,433,437,438,442,AND 451 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of said ordinance.

FIRST READING OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2013/2014 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of said ordinance.

FIRST READING TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of said ordinance.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR THE RENOVATION OF OFFICE SPACE FOR THE MAGISTRATES AND DACUSVILLE SCHOOL: (item moved to executive session)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to convene into executive session.

- Boards and Commissions
 - Behavioral Health Services
 - Anderson, Pickens, Oconee Mental Health Board
- Legal Update

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Behavioral Health Services –Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to re-appoint Mary Hammond, Douglas Clamp, and Scott Dover to the Behavioral Health Board.

Anderson, Oconee, Pickens Mental Health Board-Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to recommend to the governor appointment of Ethel Pettigrew.

Cafeteria Property at the Liberty School- Chairman Smith moved to give the old Liberty Middle School cafeteria to the Meals on Wheels Organization with the stipulation that it be used for meal preparations for citizens of Pickens County; \$12,000 per year will be allotted for a period of (3) years for a total of \$36,000. In the event the building is no longer used by this organization for the intended use, the property will revert back to the county or another organization designated by Pickens County. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. This motion represents a first reading in title only for a transfer of county property.

Magistrates Facility- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder to allow the Administrator to expend up to \$1 M for the renovation of buildings at the Liberty Middle School for the purpose of the magistrates offices. These funds are directly from Pickens County. Motion was seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

NCAA Application- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst to appropriate \$150,000 from recreation funds and accommodation tax for the purpose of assisting in the NCAA application process with Southern Wesleyan University.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman