

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
February 02, 2015
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 on January 20, 2015.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman
Trey Whitehurst, Vice Chairman
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem
G. Neil Smith
Randy Crenshaw
Ensley Feemster
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Matthew Delk, Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Willis called the meeting of February 2, 2015 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Neil Smith led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

The Clerk called upon citizens that signed up for the Public Forum.

- 1) Pre Hamilton- Ms. Hamilton came before Council as the President of the Humane Society and informed Council that fundraising efforts were still on schedule and going well. Ms. Hamilton also stated that the County Animal Control Department and Humane Society are working well together.
- 2) Jack Slice- Mr. Slice stated that he was a resident in Liberty. He is concerned about a neighboring area that uses explosive devices. Mr. Slice stated this is Tannerite, and people shoot at it on a target, and the noise is extreme. Mr. Slice stated he would like the Council to help with the noise and constant disturbance of this issue. Mr. Slice also informed Council this is not just a nuisance, the impact of these explosives are rattling windows inside neighboring homes.
- 3) Rick Spencer-Mr. Spencer stated he was concerned about the procedure of rural water districts collecting past due water accounts from new residents. Mr. Spencer stated that he has purchased property in the Six Mile area, and he has been told that he must satisfy the previous owners past due bills (over \$600.00) before he can obtain service. Mr. Spencer stated he knew that County Council did not have jurisdiction over the water districts, but he wanted to bring this to the attention of Council.
- 4) Weldon Clark-Mr. Clark stated the next tax payers association meeting is on March 3 at 7:00 p.m. and the speaker will be Matthew Delk. In another issue, Mr. Clark brought attention to the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) email as it relates to Bills about the Local Government Fund. Mr. Clark urged citizens and Council to address these issues with legislators.
In conclusion, Mr. Clark stated the Council's issue with shooting ranges and stray bullets is a serious matter.

>>Councilman Neil Smith stated he appreciated Mr. Clark's concern about the shooting range, and further asked Mr. Clark if he would assist the Council and Committee as they navigate a way

to approach this issue in a positive way. Mr. Smith stated this is an issue of public safety. Mr. Clark responded he would assist Mr. Whitehurst and his committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder.

(amend) Chairman Willis moved to amend the minutes on page (6) under contractual issues-to change the phrase “to authorize Chairman Willis to discuss the (MOU) as discussed in executive session”—to “to authorize Chairman Willis to engage the (MOU) as discussed in executive session.” Ms. Willis stated she requested the Clerk to go back to the recording and use the verbatim language on this particular issue. Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst seconded the amendment. All members voted in favor.

- Motion to approve the minutes as amended passed with a unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Delk advised Council of the following issues.

Library- Mr. Delk stated he had sent Council an email earlier in the day concerning the library server that has gone down and is in need of immediate attention. Mr. Delk and Library Director Allison Anderson explained the service life of the server, as well as the thought process to utilize software from an offsite server. Mr. Delk also stated this issue was coming up in the next budget cycle. The cost is approximately \$275,000. (this is over a 7 year period).

>Council had several concerns about the benefits of an offsite server versus in house. Also Council wanted to know what the Library Board recommends. In addition, Council was concerned about this type of expenditure without more information.

>Council requested for Ms. Anderson to call a board meeting, and bring their recommendation back to the Administration and Finance Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning: Committee Chairman Whitehurst gave the following report:

The Education, Recreation, Health Welfare, and County Planning committee met on Friday, January 23, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.in the Main Conference Room. All committee members were in attendance and Committee Chair Trey Whitehurst presided.

Staff:

Matthew Delk, Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Helen Hockwalt, Tourism Director
Gerald Wilson, Public Works Director

Medal of Honor Recipient Dedication:

- The Committee made their selection for design sensory out of Knoxville TN to be the successful bidder to provide the DVD dedications for each Medal of Honor Recipient, at a price of \$25,275.00. Helen Hockwalt was authorized to be the project manager and contact for this vendor.

>>Council approved.

(next Committee meeting will be late February)

No action-other items were determined for next steps:

- Exact date will be determined - /first choice is Memorial Day (May 25)

- will send a save the date mailing to family members
- Staff will work on coordination between main site for the ceremony and individual sites.
- Staff is checking to seek commitments from senators and congressman
- Staff is checking the Memorial Day plans with other municipalities.
- Staff will obtain date of arrival for the memorials and confirmation
- Tourism Director will form an Events Staff
 - Contact with Medal of Honor Association
 - Contact with military Chaplains
 - Contact with Boy Scouts
 - Contact with Local High Schools/ROTC/Color Guards
 - Contact vocalist
 - Floral arrangements

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Willis reminded Council about the WorkReady reception that would be at Alliance Pickens on Thursday afternoon on February 5th.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Willis opened the floor for new business.

- 1) Councilman Neil Smith moved to add to the consent agenda to go to committee the library server/software issue. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.
- 2) Chairman Willis moved to add to the consent agenda to go to committee a fire hydrant request; she explained that this comes as a request to lower an ISO rating in an area of Easley. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder, and unanimously passed.

FUNDING REQUEST FOR INTEGRITY SYSTEM GLASSY MOUNTAIN:

Mr. Delk explained this system has had issues with being down, and personnel are not being alerted. The Integrity Monitoring System will send alarms to the 911 center in order to alert personnel there is a problem. The cost is \$24,905.00. Battery back-up is needed in order to allow time for proper maintenance in case of generator failure (3.8 hours). This cost is \$6,597.00.

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to fund these expenses from the capital account as recommended by Ralph Guarino.

APPROVAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT LIST:

- Motion was made by Councilman Tom Ponder, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to approve the surplus list as presented.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 486 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 486.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 487 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING (1) DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY (THE “PARK”), SUCH PARK TO BE, AT THE TIME OF ITS INITIAL DEVELOPMENT, GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND TO INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY NOW OR TO BE OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BY MICHELIN NORTH AMERICA, INC.; (2) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A WRITTEN PARK AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY AS TO THE REQUIREMENT OF PAYMENTS OF FEE IN LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXES WITH RESPECT TO PARK PROPERTY AND THE SHARING OF THE REVENUES AND EXPENSES OF THE PARK; (3) THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES FROM THE PARK WITHIN PICKENS COUNTY; AND (4) OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 487.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.
 - Glassy Mountain and Six Mile Mountain Radio communications System- Administration and Finance.
 - Library Server/Software-Administration and Finance
 - Fire Hydrant Issue- Administration and Finance

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.
 - Legal Issues
 - Contractual Issues
 - Personnel Update
 - Personnel Issue
 - Legal Update
 - Boards and Commissions

PUBLIC SESSION BACK TO ORDER:

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

Assessment Board of Appeals- Councilman Neil Smith moved to appoint Mr. Jerry Owens to the Assessment Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Liberty Fire-Councilman Neil Smith moved to re-appoint Dean Parker and David Garrison. Councilman Tom Ponder seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Six Mile Fire- Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst moved to re-appoint Bill Stevens and appoint new member Steve Howard, motion was seconded by Councilman Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Willis called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Neil Smith, and seconded by Vice Chairman Trey Whitehurst. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman