

\*\*Please note - These are not official minutes of the Pickens County Council meeting. This reflects the issues that were before Council and shows the actions, however the minutes are not "official" until the County Council meets and approves them as presented. Please contact, Donna Owen, Council Clerk for any questions.

March 20, 2006  
Regular Meeting  
6:00 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, March 15, 2006.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman  
G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman  
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro Tempore  
C. Roy Collins  
Tom Ponder  
Ben L. Trotter

Staff: Ralph Guarino, Interim County Administrator  
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator  
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council  
Ken Roper, County Attorney

#### **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Willis called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. James London gave the invocation.

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

March 6, 2006- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the minutes as presented.

March 10, 2006- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to approve the minutes as presented.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- Public Service Committee Meeting 3/13/06. Committee Chair Roy Collins gave the following report:

The Public Service Committee met in the Main Conference Room on Monday, March 13, 2006 at 4:00 PM with Committee Chair Roy Collins presiding. All members of the committee were present.

Staff:

Ralph Guarino, Finance Director/Interim County Administrator  
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator  
Olivia Vassey, Research Analyst

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Item	Description	Referred	Action
5	Ordinance to amend the road fee ordinance  1 <sup>st</sup> reading 2/21/06	02/21/06	Committee recommends second reading of an ordinance to repeal Ordinance No 365, and to specify uses for the fund.  See second reading below of Ordinance No. 373.
6	Study issues with the roads and bridges department (report back within 45 days)	03/06/06	Committee went into executive session and asked for a Committee meeting at <u>5:00 PM on Monday, March 20, 2006.</u>
7	Sewer Issues at Quail Haven	03/06/06	No Action, Committee requested for staff to arrange a meeting with developers.
8	Assistance with Dacusville Recreation	03/06/06	Committee recommends for staff to provide the following: 1.) Dress up and grass the disturbed area near the recycling station road. Utilize the Hydro seeder from the landfill for this work. The area here is about an acre in size.  2.) Create a pad for the basketball court to be constructed on the left of the entrance.  3.) Using the soil from the basketball court work, create a pad for two tennis courts on the right side of the entrance.  4.) Re-grade the banks leading from the entrance to the recycling station road so this area can be mowed with the Rec-department lawn mowers.  5.) Flatten the slopes around the borrow pit and smooth the floor of the pit in preparation for the gym building to be constructed in this area. This will also allow grass cutting in this area until developed.  6.) Allow use of a smooth steel drum roller (an asphalt roller) to level the ruts in the football playing field.  7.) Place the signs as per the sketch provided.  >>Committee also requests another meeting to view the overall plan.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 373 AS SUBMITTED FROM THE COMMITTEE.**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 365, DATED OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2005 AND TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 295, CHAPTER 32 ARTICLE III, DATED JUNE 4, 2001, AS IT RELATES TO THE USES OF THE UNIFORM ROAD USER FEE, AND TO FURTHER ESTABLISH THE SPECIFIC USES.**

**Section 32-62, Fee Established**

(e) The proceeds from the collection of such fees shall be deposited into the County General Fund Special Road Maintenance Account. The proceeds of such fund shall be specifically used to maintain and improve the County road system, which consist of roads owned by Pickens County and Pickens County Municipalities. Proceeds to include litter crew personnel and construction/maintenance for County bridges, and the repair of sidewalks, as well as to pay for the debt service on any outstanding General Obligation Bond issued for County road improvements. State maintained and owned highways are excluded from these funds. Any interest earned on these funds shall accrue to this account. Funds not used in any fiscal year shall be carried forward and used for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of County roads and related drainage, as well as to pay the debt service on any General Obligation Bond issued exclusively for County road improvements.

>>Motion came from the committee, all members voted in favor of Ordinance No. 373, with the exception of James London who opposed. Motion carried that this constitutes second reading of Ordinance No. 373.

**ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

Ralph Guarino demonstrated the new information that is now available to the public via the Pickens County website. Such information included the Audit reports and budget information as well as maps of council districts.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to place a policy for the Road Fee Ordinance in the work session log.
2. Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to place in committee the issue of creating a committee for EMS, and Fire issues. Referred to the Justice and Public Safety Committee.
3. Motion was made by James London, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to add to the agenda a request for support regarding Clemson University and the program entitled: "Technology as an Enabler for Recycling Policy Reform"
4. Motion was made by James London, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to check that the issue of Warpath Landing was still in the committee. Issue remains in the Education, Recreation, Health Welfare, and County Planning Committee.
5. Motion was made by James London, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to place in the work session log the issue of Pickens County Vision 2025.

6. Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to send to the committee the issue of Crowe Creek landing as it relates to recent issue of vandalism. Referred to Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare and County Planning Committee.

Mr. Trotter made mention of the importance of meeting regularly regarding these committees.

**PRESENTATION BY BOB STROTHER, APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:**

Mr. Strother came before council and reported on the past year of services provided to Pickens County by the Appalachian Council of Governments. Mr. Strother also made available upcoming programs.

**RECOGNITION OF AWARDS FOR THE PICKENS COUNTY RECYCLING DEPARTMENT:**

Assistant Administrator, Lynn Fisher made the presentation to recognize Gerald Wilson and Dewy Lewis for the State Awards they had received in Columbia for their outstanding recycling efforts in Pickens County.

**RECOGNITION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES:**

Council recognized Mr. Jack Mulkey for 19 years of Service at the Pickens County Public Works Department.

**APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION TO PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF APRIL AS BEAUTIFICATION PICKENS COUNTY MONTH:**

>>Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the proclamation to proclaim the month of April as Beautification Pickens County Month.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 372, TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 304, THE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS ORDINANCE DATED MARCH 4, 2002, AS IT RELATES TO SECTIONS 9.1.6 – EXPIRATION OF APPROVAL AND THE PARAMETERS OF A VESTED RIGHT AND 11.1.2 – EXPIRATION OF APPROVAL AND THE PARAMETERS OF A VESTED RIGHT:**

Chairman Willis opened the floor for the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 372. With no citizen participation, the Public Hearing was closed.

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by James London and unanimously passed that this constitutes third and final reading of Ordinance No. 372.

**FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO IDENTIFY FLOOD PRONE AREAS WITHIN PICKENS COUNTY. REFER TO THE EDUCATION, RECREATION, HEALTH, WELFARE, AND COUNTY PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes first reading of said ordinance and refer to committee.

**CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATION OF CATEECHEE MILL VILLAGE SEWER SYSTEM UPON THE AWARD OF GRANT FUNDING AND COMPLETION OF UPGRADES TO THE WASTEWATER**

**TREATMENT FACILITY AND PUMP STATION. AN APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT WILL BE SUBMITTED IN APRIL:**

>>Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to accept ownership for the sewer system at Cateechee upon the award of grant funding, and completion of upgrade.

**APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION NO. 06-03 TO ACCEPT THE GRANT MATCH FOR THE CATEECHEE MILL VILLAGE SEWER UPGRADE:**

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to approve Resolution No. 06-03.

**CONSIDERATION TO PAVE THE COUNTY PORTION OF BLACK SNAKE ROAD, AND AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FOR THE PAVING OF NORTH WOODLAND, CEDAR CREEK, AND MAYFIELD LANE:**

>>Roy Collins moved to approve paying for the stated roads. Tom Ponder seconded the motion.

During discussion, Council members voiced frustration in the fact that Council approves an annual paving list and when that list is deviated from, the council is in fact supposed to approve all changes. However, in the request for this approval, it is evident the Roads and Bridges Director blatantly failed to follow the guidelines.

Councilman Smith also made mention of practices where a department head was fired for lying, and here we have a case of a department head that has cost the county funds by paving roads without authorization. Mr. Smith also stated he has been asking for a listing of roads for over a year, and now he feels the reason they were never provided was due to roads being paved without authorization from Council. Mr. Ponder stated while he was extremely frustrated with this issue, he realized this department head had retired, and a new person would be in that department. Chairman Willis stated she would like to know how this happened and also prevent it from ever happening again.

>>Ben Trotter recommended an investigation to determine the seriousness of this action.

>>Neil Smith amended, seconded by Tom Ponder for staff to perform an internal study of the last 5 years of roads which were paved, to see if the roads match to the approved paving lists, also to trace the funds received from the driveway tie-ends. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

>>Councilman Smith called for the question on the original motion which is to pay for the roads and authorize the paving of Black Snake Road. Tom Ponder, Chairman Willis, James London and Roy Collins voted in favor. Ben Trotter and Neil Smith opposed. Motion carried.

**SUPPORT FOR THE RECYCLING PROJECT:**

>>Motion was made by James London, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the letter of support for participation in the project entitled "Technology as an Enabler for Recycling Policy Reform"

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

>>Neil Smith made the motion to amend Item D to include that all municipalities be afforded the opportunity to submit such request. Amendment was seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed.

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

- a. Request from citizens on Mountaindale Road regarding the entrance of Mountaindale Road. Refer to the Public Service Committee.
- b. Request from the Department of Health and Environmental Control to seek alternatives for prenatal care in Pickens County. Refer to the Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning.
- c. Request from the Town of Central for (2) surplus patrol vehicles. Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee.
- d. Request from the Pickens County Recreation Committee to reallocate funds to the Six Mile Recreation Committee for a Tractor, Lawn Reels, and Sprayer. Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee.
- e. Study issues regarding vicious animals and other matters of Animal Control. Refer to the Justice and Public Safety Committee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

>>Motion to convene in executive session was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

- Sale of Property
- Personnel Issues

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

Chairman Willis called the public session back to order and advised no motions forthcoming.

**ADJOURN:**

With no further business before the Council, motion to adjourn was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman