

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
September 15, 2014
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 September 5, 2014.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Tom Ponder, Vice Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, V.C. Pro-Tem
Jeff Martin
Trey Whitehurst
Randy Crenshaw

Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Matthew L. Delk, County Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Gerald Wilson, Public Works Director
Barry Chappell, Delinquent Tax Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of September 15, 2014 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith called upon Councilman Jeff Martin to lead 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) Junius Smith-Mr. Smith stated that he believes that if his deed states that he owns his property to the center of the road, then utilities should not be able to build, construct or use any of this property without his permission. He believes there should be an ordinance to address these issues. Mr. Smith further stated the issue with the Doodle Railroad that the Municipalities (of Pickens and Easley) have purchased is illegal because citizens have been paying taxes on this property for years. Mr. Smith stated the County should sue the municipalities.

Recreation- Mr. Smith concluded with issues as it relates to city recreation departments charging double rates for children to participate who do not live in those corporate limits. Mr. Smith proposed a County Recreation Department.

**Ms. Willis noted to Mr. Smith that the rates for Easley (in some sports) were \$85 and \$65, thus it would be incorrect to state that as double.

Mr. Smith went on to state other reasons for a County Recreation Department.

- 2) Philip Smith- Mr. Smith stated in as far as the double rate for recreation, it is in fact double for football in the City of Liberty. In further matters, Mr. Smith informed Council that Greenville County has drafted an Ordinance in opposition of the expansion EPA. This EPA Bill wants to control properties that have large ponds, creeks, or any containment for water. Ms. Willis and Chairman Smith both were familiar with the EPA Bill and informed Mr. Smith that the Bill has failed.

- 3) Bill Johnston – Mr. Johnston brought some material for Council to look at as it relates to what other Counties and Cities are doing for constitution week. Mr. Johnston also stated it looked like most of these activities are low cost or self supporting.
- 4) Weldon Clark – Mr. Clark spoke about the problem with overcrowding at the jail. Mr. Clark said if you have the State not accepting prisoners, and the fact that our jail is overcrowded due to the fact that unless the prisoners request a trial, then they stay in jail. Thus, there was only one trial last month. Mr. Clark stated this is where the problem is, and it should be taken care of at the State level, but it is not.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 18, 2014

- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of August 18, 2014 as presented.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Delk introduced himself as the new County Administrator, he advised Chairman Smith and Council that he was most thankful for the opportunity and trust they have bestowed upon him, and he and his wife and two children are settling into the Pickens County area.

Mr. Delk informed Council and the public of the following issues.

- Tax appeals process- Mr. Delk stated the time has passed for citizens to appeal there tax notice. There are 1,228 appeals for property valuation, and the assessor’s office will begin working on those.
- Lisa McWherter- with Southern Wesleyan University is here, and she will be working with the County as the University is dedicating a flag plaza. This flag plaza will have (5) flags: the United States Flag, the South Carolina Flag, Christian Flag, and the Southern Wesleyan flag. The County is in the process of working with Southern Wesleyan to also have a Pickens County Flag.
- Mr. Delk informed Council that the County and particularly Chairman Smith have worked with Appalachian Council of Governments on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Town of Norris to secure a grant for a fire truck. Part of the process is for the county to enter into an agreement as we are the pass through for these funds.
- Lastly, Mr. Delk stated the county received an award on behalf of the good work the Pickens County Employees do with their efforts to support United Way. Mr. Delk stated this past year the staff had a silent auction that went very well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Service, Committee Chair Vice Chairman Tom Ponder gave the following report.

The Public Service committee met on Wednesday August 27, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. with Committee Chairman Tom Ponder presiding. Committee members Chairman Smith and Councilman Randy Crenshaw were also in attendance.

Staff:

Matthew Delk, County Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Gerald Wilson, Public Works Director
Brian O’Kelly, Public Service Director
Joey Gray, Public Works

Log	Description	Referred	Action
	Committee Log Items		
20	Wastewater impact fee ord. Retained 2012 Retained 2013	08/20/2012	>>>Committee recommends for staff to update the ordinance and provide a memorandum back to the Administrator as it relates to providing services.
21	Events/Permitting re. public roads Retained 2013	05/06/2013	>>>Council recommends that staff write an Ordinance as it relates to permits for use of County Roads. This should include input from the Planning Director and the Sheriff. Items in the ordinance should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee/no fee • Types of events (Christmas Parade, Festivals, other) • Sponsors of the event • Liability insurance certificate for the event • Penalty for non-compliance • Maps, and road closures This ordinance will come back to the committee >Council approved
22	Request for the Relocation of Alexander Road & Crowe Creek Parking lot.	03/17/2014	>>>Committee recommends an exception as allowed in the minimum maintenance road ordinance for staff to secure a 25 ft Right of Way on Alexander Road >Committee Chairman Vice Chairman Tom Ponder stated many things had come up during this, and he recommends it stays in committee. >Council approved
24	Paving List	05/19/2014	>>>Committee recommends approval of the paving list as amended by dropping a State Road (Summit Dr.) and adding roads in the Whispering Pines sub-division. As information- the committee was informed that C-funds were providing for work on Old Central Road and Clemson Street. >Council approved.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith stated the following:

- 1) He will be signing the drug free lifestyle “Red Ribbon Week” proclamation
- 2) He will be signing the Annual Comprehensive Development Strategy (CEDs)
- 3) Notice that the Piedmont Chapter of the Daughters of American Colonist will be dedicating a historical marker near the entrance of Mile Creek Park. This marker will be about Fort Prince George, and further information will be going out.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business.

- 1) Chairman Smith moved to pull the Pumpkintown issues from the Administration and Finance Committee, and discuss in executive session as another contractual issue. Vice Chairman Tom Ponder seconded the motion and was passed with a unanimous vote.
- 2) Chairman Smith stated he is moving item #(9) Establishment of Millage Fees, to be heard after executive session, due to the fact the council will discuss fire fees as part of this item.

Hearing no more business, Chairman Smith closed the motion period.

APPROVAL OF THE RENOVATIONS CONTRACT – LIBERTY AUDITORIUM

Mr. Guarino stated the bids were in on September 11, 2014 and the low bid is North-Lake Construction at \$670,000.00. This is within budget.

- Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed to approve the contract with North-Lake Construction.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015:
(moved until after executive session)**

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE FOR A FEE IN LIEU REGARDING PROJECT GEORGE:

- Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved that this constitute a first reading of the Ordinance known as “Project George”; seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE, AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY, FORMALLY KNOWN AS THE TRI-COUNTY LANDFILL SITE, BY PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading of the ordinance for sale of property.

AN ORDINANCE 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 Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed that this constitutes first reading of an ordinance as it relates to Oconee/Pickens Park agreements.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 481 FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$700,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2015 OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing for anyone desiring to speak as it relates to the bonds for Shady Grove Fire District. Hearing none, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing.

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitutes second reading of Ordinance No. 481.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 480 TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK DATED NOVEMBER 4, 1996 BY AND BETWEEN GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS OF 1976 §4-1-170, ET SEQUITER, AS AMENDED; SO AS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY AND TO FURTHER DESCRIBE SUCH PROPERTY IN THAT PORTION OF THE JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK GEOGRAPHICALLY

LOCATED IN GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 481.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.
- County Buildings/office master plan-Committee of the Whole
- Pickens County Jail Facility Evaluation-Administration and Finance

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to convene into executive session as amended for the stated purposes.
 - Legal updates
 - Personnel updates
 - Contractual issues
 - -added the Pumpkintown fire issue
 - Boards and Commissions

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Millage for Fiscal Year 2014-2015:

- Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to approve the Millage Rate as presented from staff. Motion includes the fee increases to Easley Fire District as follows *\$81 dwelling, Commercial <3,000 sq. ft. \$161, 3,000-9,999 sq. ft. \$653, and 10,000-above sq. ft. \$1297, churches and non-profit \$0.* And Pumpkintown fire fee increase *\$16.00 per category.* Motion was seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed.

Meals on Wheels:

- Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst authorizing an easement agreement with Pickens County Meals on Wheels (PCMOW). The easement will give PCMOW access to the bathroom facilities on the County portion of the Liberty Auditorium property. (PCMOW) will give the County access to the courtyard, the staircase, and the cafeteria. The Administrator is also authorized to execute any documents and make any determinations to establish property lines, easement areas, and terms of use thereof. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Part-Time Fire Chief at Pumpkintown District :

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder to create a part-time position of a fire chief at the Pumpkintown District. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
>Council noted this item will be part of the budget amendment later in the year.

Purchase of Land for Dacusville Fire:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, and seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst to approve Resolution No. 2014-05, authorizing the purchase property for the Dacusville Fire District. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Boards and Commissions: (Easley Water and Behavioral Health Services):

- Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to re-appoint Larry Hudson to the Easley-Central Water District, and to appoint Jack Smith Parrish to the Behavioral Health Board. Motions were seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman