

March 7, 2011  
Regular Council Meeting  
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 February 28, 2011.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman  
G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman  
Jeff Martin  
Trey Whitehurst  
Sam Wyche

Absent:

Tom Ponder

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator  
Ken Roper, County Attorney  
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Willis called the meeting of March 7, 2011 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mrs. Willis noted the absence of Councilman Ponder. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Martin.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Willis opened public forum and requested the Clerk to introduce citizens who have signed up to speak.

Margaret Thompson- Ms. Thompson came before Council to ask about how the recycling programs were going within the municipalities. Ms. Thompson stated she wanted to make sure that costs were kept down regarding solid waste and recycling. On another matter, Ms. Thompson stated she was a retired employee of the Pickens County Sheriff's department, and she thanked Council for their strong fiscal responsibilities, as she has received a retirement check every month, and had her health benefits, Ms. Thompson stated she was grateful to the Pickens leaders for that security.

Joe Cole- Mr. Cole informed Council that he lived off of Olive Street/Saluda Dam Road in Easley, SC. Mr. Cole reported that Combined Utility was putting in a waterline and they were taking property even though property owners did not want to release as much property as the company was demanding. Mr. Cole was also concerned about the utility company cutting the drive at the new Crosswell fire station. Mr. Cole also stated the citizens in the area are not being informed about the project until the company is there to take property. In conclusion, Mr. Cole asked if there were any measures that citizens in that area could do to stop this project. Mr. Cole was informed that Council could not address the issue due to a dispute about this particular project. However, Council requested he leave his name and number and Council could communicate with him as issues are resolved.

Cathy Breazeale- Ms. Breazeale came before Council with a group of Pickens County high school youth to invite Council and Citizens to an anti-tobacco campaign. The event will be April 11, 2011 at 6:00 PM

at Simpson School in Easley. The program is to raise awareness of how early children are using tobacco products and the health risk associated with tobacco use.

Elizabeth Tickle- Ms. Tickle along with members of the Saluda community came to Council to discuss the fact that DHEC was continuing with work on the rock veins in the Saluda River without permits, and without the property owners agreeing to this project. Ms. Tickle stated that she would appreciate any communication and assistance the County could provide in stopping this project.

F.M. Caddell- Mr. Caddell came before Council to complain about the fact that bicyclists are not following proper traffic laws. Mr. Caddell stated he did not have a problem with a bicyclist, but he had a problem when they did not use proper signals, and did not move to the side in order for traffic to safely pass. On another issue, Mr. Caddell stated he had read in a local newspaper that there were school children in Pickens County schools who were suffering from such poverty to the point of hunger being an issue in this school.

Jim Sheriff- Dr. Sheriff came before Council to state he was opposed to the Comprehensive Plan section as it relates to property rights. Dr. Sherriff stated he did not want County Government to be conducted like a City. Dr. Sheriff concluded by stating he wanted to be a part of redoing the plan, and he wanted to be part of cutting socialization out of Pickens County government.

Lisa Hallo- Ms. Hallo stated that she was one of the citizens who worked on the Comprehensive Plan and she wanted to say that many hours went into working on the plan. She extended gratitude to those citizens who worked on the plan as well. Ms. Hallo also encouraged Council to continue healthy debate, but to adopt the plan as written.

Weldon Clark – Mr. Clark informed Council that the new regulations concerning lowering the ozone readings were discussed at a recent meeting, and the group was informed by an EPA representative that lowering them would not impact the environment. Discussions were had about the concerns of the new regulations having a negative impact on economic development.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion was made Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of February 7, 2011.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

County Administrator, Chappell Hurst informed Council of the following issues.

1. Saluda River issue- Mr. Hurst stated in light of Ms. Tickle’s issue, he was arranging a meeting with DHEC and the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Hurst stated this would be an open forum to gather information and ask questions about plans, permits, and environmental studies.
2. Crosswell ISO Review- ISO stated Crosswell had done a great job, and there is anticipation of a good rating, but three (3) years are required before the best rates will be administered.
3. Hagood Mill- Awarded the Bundy Award during the Governors Luncheon at the Parks and Tourism conference. This award was given to Hagood Mill for their third Saturday event.  
--Council was pleased and further requested the administrator to draft a congratulatory note to those who help make the event possible.
4. Spay and neuter program- Mr. Hurst stated over 4,100 animals were sterilized since the program began in 2006. Mr. Hurst stated this has resulted in thousands of animals not producing litters, and when you average the cost of picking up, sheltering, and in some cases euthanizing these

animals, this is a savings of over \$600,000. Mr. Hurst stated over 700 were not euthanized in Pickens County this past year.

5. Transparency in spending- Mr. Hurst stated Finance Director, Ralph Guarino has completed a project so that citizens can go on the Pickens County Website to view the spending accounts of Pickens County.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Chairman Willis gave the Committee of the Whole Report:

The Committee of the Whole met in the Main Conference Room at 6:00 PM, on Tuesday, February 22, 2011. All Committee Members were in attendance with Chairman Willis presiding.

Committee:  
 Jennifer Willis, Chairman  
 Neil Smith, Vice Chairman  
 Tom Ponder  
 Jeff Martin  
 Trey Whitehurst  
 Sam Wyche

Staff:  
 Chappell Hurst, County Administrator  
 Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Item	Description	Referred	Action Report
1	<a href="#">Third reading of an ordinance to amend the Economic Development Ordinance</a>  > <a href="#">bylaws</a>  Retained 12/21/2009 Retained 12/06/2010	12/07/09	No action, staff will incorporate the new by-laws and make necessary amendments for the third reading. Also Committee would like to see a Memorandum of Understanding
5	<a href="#">EPA Air Quality Issues</a>  Retained 12/21/2010	06/07/2010	No action, staff will write a letter for the new State Officials.
6	Comprehensive Plan  <a href="#">&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;changes</a>	12/06/2010	No action, staff will pursue the 2010 census, and update data in the existing Comprehensive Plan.
7	<a href="#">Twelve Mile River Updates</a> <a href="#">Twelve Mile Saluda River Issue</a>	02/07/2011	Staff to gather soil samples from the banks of the Twelve Mile River, and for the letter to be mailed regarding Twelve Mile Remediation.  Re: Saluda River- Motion was made to request the hydrology and all pertinent engineering data concerning the project.

**COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Hearing none, Chairman Willis moved forward.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Willis opened the floor for any new motions.

- Neil Smith moved to add a contractual issue to executive session; motion was seconded by Jeff Martin. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Hearing no further motions, Chairman Willis closed motion period.

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

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed that this constitute a first reading of an ordinance to enlarge the Oconee Industrial Park.

**APPROVAL OF MUTUAL AID FOR PICKENS AND OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to approve the mutual aid agreement with Pickens and Oconee Emergency Management.

**ACCEPTANCE OF VICTORY HILL ROAD IN THE MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ROAD SYSTEM:**

- Motion was made by Jeff Martin, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to accept the staff approval for Victory Hill Road in the minimum maintenance program.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.
  - Refer to Education, Recreation, and County Planning--Review requirements for racetracks and special purpose uses.
  - Refer to Administration and Finance Committee-- Unemployment Insurance Rates and Assessments

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed for Council to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.
  - Legal update
  - Personnel update
  - Boards and Commissions
  - Contractual Issue (2) – one added during motion period
  - Economic Development

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

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

**Central Fire District:**

- Trey Whitehurst moved to re-appoint George Reid, and the new appointment of Garvin Bolding. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

**Liberty Fire District:**

- Neil Smith moved to re-appoint Keith Culbreath, and the new appointment of Brian Finley. Motion was seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed.

**Holly Springs**

- Sam Wyche moved to re-appoint Mitchell Cassell, and Austin Cater. Motion also included the new appointment for Edgar Smith’s unexpired term to Mary Cribbs. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

**Pickens:**

- Sam Wyche moved to reappoint Carol Black, and the new appointment of Keith Davidson. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

**Pumpkintown:**

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to approve the re-appointments of Duane Thomas and Denise Blecke.

**Rocky Bottom:**

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to approve the re-appointments of Frank Masters and Edward Kelley to the Rocky Bottom Fire District.

**Shady Grove:**

- Motion was made by Sam Wyche, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to approve the re-appointment of Grady Abercrombie and Edward Teagle.

**Six Mile:**

- Trey Whitehurst made the motion to re-appoint Scott McCall to the Six Mile Fire District. Seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

**Vineyards:**

- Sam Wyche, seconded by Neil Smith moved to re-appoint Jim Miller and Ronald McGimpsey to the Vineyard Fire District. Motion was unanimous.

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further business, Chairman Willis called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Jeff Martin and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman