

November 5, 2007
Regular Council Meeting
7:00 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, October 31, 2007.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Ben L. Trotter, Vice Chairman
Tom E. Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
James B. London
Jennifer H. Willis

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Lynn Fisher, Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of November 5, 2007 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith called upon Councilman Ponder for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith called upon the Clerk to submit the names of citizens who have requested time for public forum.

1. **Steve Collins.** Mr. Collins stated he was returning to County Council for assistance regarding the issue of Six Mile Water District's refusal to assist the homeowners who reside in the Outer Banks of Keowee. Mr. Collins reminded Council that his neighborhood has a serious issue with a fire hazard because adequate hydrants are not in place. Mr. Collins stated he took the advice of Council and went before the Water District to inform them that the homeowners had all the necessary grants and funds for the waterline to be placed and the hydrant installed. However, the district stated they would not be a recipient of state or federal grants. Mr. Collins stated they told him that they would do the project if funds did not involve the grants.

>Mr. Hurst stated he would look into the possibility of the County accepting the grant.

2. **F.M. Caddell.** Mr. Caddell came before Council to speak on behalf of Mr. Collins and his neighbors. Mr. Caddell stated the area is in need of this hydrant. Mr. Caddell also stated the neighborhood has adequate space for fire trucks.

3. **Bob Spaldin.** Mr. Bob Spaldin was introduced to Council via the Adult Education Program of Pickens County. Mr. Spaldin has recently been involved at the County Prison with computer literacy programs and other educational needs. Mr. Spaldin explained that he wanted to share some good news with Council about how the prison was actually rehabilitating adults and giving them a chance to be productive. He stated he worked with the inmates to teach basic and intermediate computer skills. Also, several inmates were getting ready to obtain their GED. Mr. Spaldin concluded by saying this has been a rewarding program.

>Council thanked Mr. Spaldin for sharing his time and talents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Jennifer Willis moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2007. Ben Trotter seconded the motion.
- Ben Trotter amended the minutes regarding the Justice and Public Safety Report to state that Item # 9 should state- that the slide-in unit will be labeled as County Property. Mr. Trotter stated it should not encompass all the equipment, as the brush truck belonged to the City. Jennifer Willis accepted the amendment.
- All Council voted to approve the minutes of October 15, 2007 as amended.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Public Service. – Committee Chairman Ponder gave the following report: The Committee met in the Main Conference Room on 10/15/07 with Committee Chairman Ponder presiding. All Committee members were in attendance as well as Councilman Trotter, Councilman Crenshaw, and Councilman London.

Staff:
 Chap Hurst, County Administrator
 Donna Owen Clerk to Council
 Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
 Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
 Bo Beauchemin , Roads and Bridges Director

Item	Description	Action
10	Ballard Hill Road – Retained 12/04/06	Staff recommends a single lane bridge with an approximate cost of \$46,000.00 Committee approved the staff recommendation. >Council unanimously passed.
26	Paving list	Staff gave Council a proposed 4-year road-paving plan. Council discussed issues of resurfacing needs and funding. >Motion was made and seconded to table the issue. Tom Ponder opposed. Motion carried and the recommendation of the committee was to table. Issue remains tabled

33	Request to name the Clemson/Central Bridge "Boggs Bridge"			Committee moved to name the Central Clemson Bridge "Boggs Bridge" and to place a historical marker at the bridge. >Council unanimously passed.
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2. Committee of the Whole. Chairman Smith gave the following report.

The Committee of the whole met in the Main Conference Room at 5:00 PM on November 5, 2007 with Chairman Smith presiding. All Council Members were in attendance.

Staff:

Chap Hurst, County Administrator
 Donna Owen Clerk to Council
 Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
 Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

Agenda:

1. Proposed TIF District for Saco Lowell
 - Report: The Committee recommends that the TIF District issue go to full council.

Chairman Smith gave the recommendation and opened the floor for motions.

- Jennifer Willis moved for County Council to participate in the TIF project for the \$14.6 million; not to allow the crossing, and limit participation to 50% of tax revenues as commercial values are assessed the County will realize some of the revenue. Motion did not receive a second and the motion failed.
- Ben Trotter moved to not participate in the TIF District; motion was seconded by Tom Ponder.

During discussion of the motion, Ben Trotter stated this project has discussed new jobs, and the "new" jobs are just not there. Mr. Trotter pointed out the vacant buildings that are already in Easley, and he realized this would create a transfer of jobs only.

Tom Ponder stated his position has always been the fact that County residents do not need to pay for State highways or the improvements.

Mrs. Willis stated she disagreed in this case, and stated the county should participate for the safety issues that surround this area. Mrs. Willis stated the reality is there is not adequate funding. Mrs. Willis further stated the TIF is not her first choice, but traffic issues and safety were at stake.

Mr. Ponder stated he did not agree about adequate funding, and further gave examples of other areas being funded that did not have traffic flow issues. Mr. Ponder pointed out areas where funding was a complete waste, and further stated he has argued, with no results, the dangers of several state roads that were in Pickens County

James London stated, in this instance he did not see the TIF being a good solution.

Chairman Smith stated while he saw validity to some of Mrs. Willis's arguments, that this package is simply not a solution to the issues.

Chairman Smith called for a vote on the motion to deny the TIF proposal.

- Mrs. Willis voted in opposition, all other council voted in the affirmative. Motion carried to not participate in the TIF district for Saco Lowell.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. **Copy of Survey results from Recreation/Tourism.** Mr. Hurst gave Council data regarding the results from recent surveys regarding recreation and tourism.
2. **Pickens County Pride Week and Recycling updates.** Mr. Hurst stated that during the approved Pickens County Pride week, that 54 tons of litter was picked up and over 400 tarps were provided to citizens in order to keep trash off the highways. Mr. Hurst stated this was a volunteer effort and a huge success. Along the same topic, Mr. Hurst stated the recycling \$100.00 drawings were a success and that recycling has continuing popularity with the shredding truck. A new program involving recycling old cell phones and computers should provide another needed service in the department.
3. **Spay and Neuter Program.** Mr. Hurst provided statistics from November 2006 to November 2007 regarding 561 animals that have been spayed or neutered via the Pickens County program. Statistics claim this has prevented a total of over 6,000 unwanted puppies and kittens. Mr. Hurst stated this program is growing and proving a decrease in animal euthanization.
4. **Springs Fire District.** Mr. Hurst stated that he had recently reported regarding the Springs Fire District Board elections. However, the County Council will serve as the "board" until the population allows for an election of its own citizens. Staff will be coming to Council for approval of equipment and station. Mr. Hurst stated right now the Springs is using the same architect as the Vineyards and is saving money in the design phase.
5. **Beautification projects.** Mr. Hurst provided that trees were being donated from the State, and were being distributed throughout the county to buffer and beautify much of the area.
6. **Request addition to the agenda.** Mr. Hurst asked Council to add to the agenda a first reading of an ordinance, which amends the park agreement with Pickens and Oconee counties. Mr. Hurst stated that back when Oconee enlarged the park that the Pickens County portion was not completed.
7. **Surplus Vehicle List.** Mr. Hurst stated that item number (9) on the agenda is a listing of vehicles that council is being asked to approve for public auction. Mr. Hurst stated these vehicles will not be going to the online provider (Govdeals.com) due to the number.

Council Questions/ Concerns:

1. **Meals on Wheels-** Jennifer Willis thanked Mr. Fisher for his work with the Meals on Wheels. Mrs. Willis stated that Mr. Fisher and the GIS department have assisted this organization with better driving routes in order to conserve fuel.
2. **Meeting with Six Mile City Council and Fire District.** Chairman Smith stated the Six Mile City Council and the Six Mile Fire District are requesting a joint

meeting with Council. Chairman Smith informed Mr. Hurst to invite them to the November 19, 2007 work session.

3. **United Way Campaign-** Jennifer Willis stated the United Way Campaign was underway, and council had forms in their folders. Mrs. Willis challenged all members to contribute.
4. **Financial Reports.** Mr. Trotter requested that Council receive the financial reports, which were supposed to be provided to the county from organizations that were funded by the county.
5. **Sound System.** Mr. Trotter stated he would like to see something done regarding the sound system. He requested that staff find the funds to repair the system so that citizens could hear better.
6. **Employee Fundraiser-** Tom Ponder commented that the Roads and Bridges Department did a good job recently for a fundraiser for an employee. Mr. Ponder stated this event was for a good cause and he appreciated the efforts.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. Addition of a first reading in title only regarding Oconee and Pickens County Park Ordinance.
 - Jennifer Willis moved to add the park agreement ordinance to the agenda, seconded by Randy Crenshaw. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Smith allowed council to vote on a courteous first reading.

- Jennifer Willis moved that this constitute a first reading of an Ordinance to amend the Park Ordinance with Oconee and Pickens Counties. Randy Crenshaw gave the second and all members voted in the affirmative.
- Tom Ponder moved to place the Keowee Outer Banks subdivision in the Public Service Committee. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.
- Randy Crenshaw moved to add to executive session an appointment to the Economic Development Alliance. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 298 SECTION 8-2 AS IT RELATES TO BUILDING CODES; TO STATE THAT ONCE THE STATE BUILDING CODES COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED NEW REGULATIONS, THAT SUCH REGULATIONS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME PART OF THE COUNTY CODE:

- Tom Ponder moved that this constitute a first reading to amend the Building Code Ordinance. Ben Trotter gave the second.

During discussion, Jennifer Willis amended the motion to move this would constitute a first reading and be forwarded to a committee. Mrs. Willis stated she would like to know more about the protocol from the Building Code Council, due to the fact that the county was going to have to implement said changes immediately and she wants to make sure of proper communications to all developers.

Chairman Smith allowed the amendment, but ruled that he would take it as a separate motion and called for a second.

- Tom Ponder gave the amendment a second.

Chairman Smith called for a vote on the amendment.

- All Council voted in favor of the ordinance going to the Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning Committee.

Chairman Smith called for a vote of the original motion that this constitutes first reading as amended.

- All members of Council voted in favor of the first reading as amended.

APPROVAL OF SURPLUS VEHICLE LIST:

- Ben Trotter stated he would approve the list for public auction; motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Boards and Commissions- Board of Appeals
- Addition – Economic Development Alliance
- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

- Randy Crenshaw moved to appoint Mr. Bill Lanham to the Economic Development Alliance, motion was seconded by James London and unanimously passed.
- Tom Ponder moved to reappoint the Board of Appeals and the new appointment of Allen Holloway to take the place of David Norton. Motion received a second from Randy Crenshaw. All voted in favor, and Ben Trotter abstained.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman