

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
November 17, 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 November 10, 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 Delk, Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of November 17, 2014 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith further called upon Vice Chairman Tom Ponder 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) Pree Hamilton-Ms. Hamilton came before Council to discuss the Pickens County Humane Society. Ms. Hamilton stated she was intending to be on the board of directors, and to preside over that board. Council was updated on various fund raisers. Ms. Hamilton concluded by reiterating that she would like the Council to strongly consider within next year's budget, buildings/facilities and how to combine the efforts of both Animal Control and the Humane Society. Ms. Hamilton said she would go to the municipalities when she was on the board.
- 2) David Holcombe- Mr. Holcombe came before Council to discuss the residents' concerns about fire fees/insurance rates in the Eastatoe Community of Pickens County. Mr. Holcombe explained that he is "defined" as being in the Holly Springs fire district. However his residences as well as all the homes in Eastatoe are better served by the Vineyards. Mr. Holcombe stated he realized the difference in fire rates, but would like to see the district redrawn in order for the citizens to procure better insurance premiums.
>>council discussed with Mr. Holcombe the difference between millage and fees. Also noted was a petition of the citizens.
- 3) Creed Hashe- Chief Deputy Hashe stated he wanted to extend the invitation for the (2) day Jail and Justice Assessment. Mr. Hashe wanted to make sure that Council had received their agenda packets for the meeting, and to emphasize there will be information from all stakeholders at this meeting in order to realize all problem areas.

- 4) Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark quoted percentages showing the continuing decrease from the State Local Government Fund. Representative Shane Martin in Spartanburg County is leading an effort to restore the Local Government Fund. However, Pickens County Representatives need to hear from the Council and citizens to follow this action.
>>Mr. Ponder and other council members did inform Mr. Clark that they have been in constant contact with the local legislative officials regarding this funding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of October 20, 2014.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

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

1. Mr. Delk stated unless he hears otherwise from the Council, the County will follow the State holiday schedule for employees to observe the Christmas holidays of Wednesday 12/24, Thursday 12/25, and Friday 12/26.
>>Council concurred with following the State schedule.
2. Mr. Delk introduced Lee McJunkin as the new Fire Chief with the Pumpkintown Fire District.
>>Council and staff welcomed Mr. McJunkin with his new post in Pumpkintown.
3. Mr. Delk discussed the Oconee Nuclear Station after action report that is critiqued by the State as it relates to the regulations of nuclear energy. Mr. Delk stated the report was very good, and the State staff had positive things they pointed out about the planning, communication, and work ethic that was dedicated to this drill. Mr. Delk thanked the Emergency Management staff and all the employees, as well as the other agencies for working well together for these important purposes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Chairman Smith stated the Next Meeting is December 15, 2014.
2. Chairman Smith called attention to the *Legislative Alert* received from the South Carolina Association of Counties regarding State roads being transferred to Counties. Mr. Smith stated this was an example of an unfunded mandate.
3. Vice Chairman Tom Ponder stated he was concerned about a request from Greenville Water to do a watershed study for water in Lake Keowee. Mr. Ponder stated he would encourage Council Members to communicate these concerns to their Water Authority Board members and other District Water Boards. Mr. Ponder cautioned Council that he does not think the outside groups have Pickens County's best interest when they are discussing the future water resource that is already in Pickens County.
4. Jeff Martin stated he was very impressed with the recent dedication of the Flag Park at Southern Wesleyan University that was held on November 11, 2014. Dr. Martin stated that he, Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Chairman Smith represented the County. Dr. Martin thanked Chairman Smith for his participation at the ceremony, and also congratulated staff at Southern Wesleyan for an excellent program.

Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Chairman Smith concurred with Dr. Martin and encouraged the public to visit the Flag Park which is open to the public.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business.

1. Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis requested of Council to place an amendment of Ordinance No. 467 regarding rehabilitation of historic mills on this agenda. Ms. Willis stated she has been contacted by a constituent in Easley who is developing Woodside Mill and is working with HUD to obtain financing. There is some unclear language in the County's ordinance they need corrected in order to progress. Specifically, this ordinance needs to be amended to clarify the transfer of property. Ms. Willis gave the example that the property needs to transfer in the event the developer fails to meet his financial obligations.

Therefore, Ms. Willis moved to place this issue on the agenda for a courtesy first reading to amend Ordinance No. 467. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to place this item on the agenda of 11/17/2014.

>>Chairman Smith stated he would entertain this item prior to the Consent Agenda.

2. Chairman Smith moved to have a funding item request from Southern Wesleyan University placed on consent to go to Administration and Finance Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.
3. Chairman Smith moved to add an Economic Contractual item to the executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed.
4. Vice Chairman Tom Ponder requested that the public be more aware of the Legislative Alerts and *Friday Reports* that come to the Council from the South Carolina Association of Counties. Mr. Ponder stated these are informative and the public should read them.

>>Mr. Delk stated he would place this on the Council/County Website.

APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR A GRANT (SLED P-25 Phase II INTEROPERABLE PROJECT):

Council was informed this grant is one time funds and the only reoccurring cost would be annual maintenance, or utility cost. The Sheriff has requested up to \$25,000 to go with the grant, but those funds would be negotiated during budget. The SLED funding is \$75,000, which can be de-obligated if the council so chooses.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve acceptance of the SLED grant application.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 482 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 and seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 482.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 484 AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY, FORMALLY KNOWN AS THE TRI-COUNTY LANDFILL SITE, BY PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA:

Chairman Smith opened the public hearing for Ordinance No. 484. Public hearing was closed with no comments.

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 484.

(AS ADDED) FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 467 AS IT RELATES TO RESTORATION OF HISTORIC MILL PROPERTY:

- Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to have a first reading of an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 467 in order to clarify language in section G (2). Chairman Smith seconded the motion and requested Ms. Willis amend her motion to state first reading and forward to committee. Ms. Willis concurred and the motion unanimously passed.

>>Administration and Finance Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA- (Added during motion period):

- Motion was made by Councilman Jeff Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as amended.

>>Funding request for Southern Wesleyan University – Administration and Finance Committee.

>>First Reading of amending Ordinance No. 467- Administration and Finance Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to convene into executive session for the stated purposes.

- Legal updates
- Personnel updates
- Contractual issues
- Boards and Commissions
- Economic Development (added)

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Contractual:

Easley Fire Contract- Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to approve the Easley Fire District contract with the (2) year cancelation notice running on the calendar year. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Boards and Commissions:

Planning-Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis to re-appoint Dennis Reinert to the Planning Commission, District 5 council seat. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

Planning- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw to appoint Jo Johnston to the Planning Commission, District 3 council seat. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

Planning- motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder to appoint Bob Young to the Planning Commission, District 6 council seat. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.

Cultural Commission – Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis moved to appoint Shirley Reece to the Cultural Commission, District 5 council seat. Motion was seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed.

Board of Assessment and Appeals-Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to recommend to the Governor the appointment of Eddie Duncan, Randy Horne, Jack Evens and Robert Pilgrim to the Assessment and Appeals Board. Motion was 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 9:10 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman