

August 6, 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, July 30, 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
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of August 6, 2007 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Smith further gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for Public Forum.

1. Weldon Clark. Mr. Clark informed Council that Mr. Hurst spoke to the Taxpayers Association, and they felt like Mr. Hurst was well informed and complimented him for the good job he was doing for Pickens County.

With no further citizens requesting to speak, Chairman Smith closed the Public Forum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter to approve the minutes of July 16, 2007. Minutes were approved unanimously with the exception of James London who abstained due to his absence.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Education Recreation, Health Welfare, and County Planning. Committee Chairman, Randy Crenshaw gave the following report.

Log Item Number 16. –Mr. Crenshaw reported that the committee had gone over the revised Stormwater Ordinance and requested the second reading, which is on the current agenda. Mr. Crenshaw also informed the citizens that the ordinance is being revised per DHEC standards, and council has a panel of contractors that have been involved in knowing about these changes. Scottie Ferguson was thanked for all her efforts.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

1. Tax notices. Mr. Hurst provided council with a sample of a tax notice information sheet that would go out to all taxpayers in order to educate them regarding where the taxes are being spent and what agencies are responsible for increases.
2. E911 Ordinance. Mr. Hurst requested that the Committee of Administration and Finance bring out the ordinance that relates to Clemson University being part of the 911 service area. Mr. Hurst stated if he could get second reading this evening then the committee could discuss it before the third and final reading. The reason Mr. Hurst explained is due to needing to order equipment.
3. Beacon at the airport. Council was informed the beacon at the airport was being moved and the AWAS system could be repaired.
4. Application for a grant with 10% match. Mr. Hurst requested permission from council to apply for a \$1 million dollar grant for the purpose of a workforce training facility in conjunction with Tri-County Technical College. Mr. Hurst stated this facility may also be accessible for fire, police, and EMS training. Mr. Hurst stated he has met with Dr. Booth from Tri-County Technical College. Council was informed that if the application was successful, there will be a 10% match. However, the match can be in kind. (i.e. grade work). Mr. Hurst stated unless council had any objections, the application process will begin. No objections were heard.
5. Customer service. Mr. Hurst informed council about the good customer service surveys that are coming in. He stated results were being graphed and placed on a bulletin board for the public and departments to review.

Council questions:

Tax Notices- Council requested that the tax notice be more user friendly with color or charts. Mr. Hurst stated staff would continue to modify.

Fencing at Dacusville - Mr. Ponder asked staff to fix the issue at the Dacusville Recreation Department as it relates to a safety issue with a fence at the retention pond. Chairman Smith asked if that needed committee attention. Mr. Hurst stated he was already in the process of addressing that issue.

Employee/Department head input - Mr. Ponder stated he thought Pickens County's best resources were the employees and department heads. Mr. Ponder stated he wanted to encourage the utilization of their talents.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Chairman appointment to the Heritage Corridor - Chairman Smith stated he had communicated with the Heritage Corridor board regarding board appointments and various other issues in order to allow funds from the previous (2) years to be released. Mr. Smith stated he would direct staff to release the funds and further he would appoint Dr. James London to the Heritage Corridor Board as the Council appointee for the 2007/2008 years. Funds for FY 2006 and 2007 would be released in the amount of \$36,000.
- South Carolina Forest Commission Check – Chairman Smith announced that earlier this evening the county had received a check for \$7,665.03. This check is for the 25% that the county receives from hunting and fishing fees, as well as sale of timber.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. E911 Ordinance. Ben Trotter, seconded by James London moved to remove the E911 Ordinance as it relates to Clemson University, from committee and allow a second reading. Motion carried with a unanimous vote. Mr. Smith noted the Ordinance would go back to committee and come back out at third reading.
2. Fire Department Truck Clarification. Chairman Smith moved to place the truck at Six Mile Fire District back in committee for clarification. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed. Issue was placed in the Justice and Public Safety Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 392 TO REVISE, AS MANDATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 356:

Chairman Smith called the public hearing to order for Ordinance No. 392.

1. Tom Smith. Mr. Smith asked if DHEC had imposed the majority of changes. Staff informed Mr. Smith that was correct.

Hearing no further Comments, Chairman Smith allowed a motion.

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes second reading of Ordinance No. 392. Motion was unanimously passed.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 393, AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A SPECIAL DISTRICT FIRE DISTRICT KNOWN AS THE SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT AND TO AMEND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SIX MILE FIRE DISTRICT:

Chairman Smith called the public hearing to order for Ordinance No. 392.

Hearing no comments, Chairman Smith closed the Public Hearing and called for the motion.

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Dr London requested a map prior to third reading.

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO PARCEL #4181-07-67-3537 KNOWN AS THE OLD SIR SHIRTMAKER MANUFACTURING FACILITY, DECLARING IT ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROVIDED IN THE TEXTILES COMMUNITIES REVITALIZATION ACT, AND PROVIDING NOTICE THEREOF:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder and seconded by Randy Crenshaw that this constitutes second reading of Ordinance No. 395.

During discussion, Mr. Trotter stated he did not think Sir Shirtmaker Manufacturing was eligible for this credit because they have been operating. Mr. Trotter further stated he thought the credit was established for a textile mill to be revitalized. Dr. London also asked about the criteria and worthiness of economic development and credits. Tom Ponder stated the law was mandated from the state and he was opposed to the State requiring the county to vote on the issue. Ken Roper stated he could obtain the criteria before the third reading, which is slated for October 1, 2007. Tom Ponder stated he thought council would be sending the wrong impression if they did not pass the ordinance. Mr. Ponder stated he was confused as to what the criteria would be for future

requests if council did not pass this one, and further stated it would give the appearance of “picking and choosing.” Chairman Smith called for the question.

- Ben Trotter, Randy Crenshaw, Neil Smith, James London, and Jennifer Willis opposed; Tom Ponder voted in favor. Motion for second reading failed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.
 - Refer to the Education, Recreation, Health, Welfare, and County Planning Committee- Recreation Plan
 - Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee- Request from the City of Liberty for the County to collect liens.
 - Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee – Request for \$25.00 fee for Abandoned Manufactured Home Removal Act
 - Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee – Planning positions
 - Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee – Recognition of employees

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

Appointments- Six Mile Fire District
Honorary Appointments

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

Chairman Smith called the Public Session back to order and allowed the following Motion.

Six Mile Fire District Appointment: Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to appoint Mrs. Thelma Clardy to fill the unexpired term of Joe Christ. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

ADJOURN:

With there being no further business before the Pickens County Council, motion to adjourn was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman