

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting  
January 13, 2014  
6:30 p.m.

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 January 3, 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

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, Administrator  
Ken Roper, County Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Smith called the meeting of January 13, 2014 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis led 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.

Junius Smith – Mr. Smith stated that the School Board raises taxes without going through procedures; in addition the Conservatives of the Upstate are going to begin watching all branches of government regarding illegal activities and hiding funds. Mr. Smith stated these tax dollars belong to the citizens. In another topic, Mr. Smith stated Representative Davey Hiott has presented a bill that would eliminate the low cost Spay and Neuter clinics. Mr. Smith stated this would force people to go to a veterinarian, which in many cases is not affordable. Also, Mr. Smith stated that Representative Hiott was in favor of the seventh school board member which should also be opposed. To conclude, Mr. Smith stated the law does not provide for a governing body to save millage; in 1978 Mr. Smith stated he was involved in a school board law suit regarding saving millage. He was told that winning such a lawsuit would ruin the school system in Pickens County. Mr. Smith stated he was told if the lawsuit were dropped, this would be stopped, and would not be allowed to be repeated. Mr. Smith stated the same issues are happening at the present.

Randy Williams – Mr. Williams informed Council that he is from the Dacusville area of Pickens County, and he has concerns about the amount of bicyclists that are in the area. Mr. Williams stated the cyclists are from other areas and they are not adhering to any practical road laws. They are riding three and four deep across the road lanes. Mr. Smith stated it is impossible to pass them, and they will not move into single file in order to pass safely. Mr. Williams stated he had spoken with Senator Martin who stated he thought the cyclists were only supposed to cycle two deep. Therefore, Mr. Williams stated he called the sheriff's office to report the illegal cycling, and was told there is nothing that can be done. Mr. Williams stated the roads the cyclist are riding on are not conducive to this kind of activity, and he fears that someone is going to get severely injured unless something is done.

Philip Smith –Mr. Smith stated he recently attended the Pickens County Delegation meeting that was hosted in Dacusville. Mr. Smith stated he owns a website that reports news and events as do other media outlets. However, Mr. Smith stated the reports from the Pickens Courier were different from his view of what took place at the Dacusville meeting. Mr. Smith stated the Courier is owned/funded by Representative Davey Hiott. Mr. Smith stated this is deceptive to the citizens because the whole meeting was about the citizens being unhappy about issues; especially issues about the seventh school board member. However, these issues were not written about in the Pickens Courier, and people who spoke about these issues were not mentioned. Mr. Smith concluded by stating that everyone should work to get Davey Hiott out of public office.

Michelle Wiles- Ms. Wiles stated she attended the Delegation meeting in Dacusville that Mr. Philip Smith was speaking about. Ms. Wiles said she was one of the speakers at the meeting, and she spoke about the \$95 million veto that was "overrode" by the Pickens County Delegation and other representatives. Ms. Wiles stated they voted for \$5.9 million out of the \$95 million. Therefore, when there are no funds for the Solicitor, Sheriff, or schools, this is how the money is actually voted on and wasted. Ms. Wiles concluded by stating none of her concerns were reported in the newspaper. And there are various issues that the public has no information or wrong information.

Weldon Clark-Mr. Clark, with the Tax Payers Association stated that on January 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Farm Bureau office in Pickens, the association will be meeting with Sheriff Rick Clark and Solicitor Wilkins. This meeting is to discuss the need for more jail space and more prosecutors. Mr. Clark stated it would be important for the public to attend.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 16, 2013:**

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of December 16, 2013 as presented.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

Chairman Smith stated that Council has requested that Finance Director, Ralph Guarino assume the duties and responsibilities as County Administrator while the process of filling the position moves forward.

There was a reception today in honor of Administrator Chappell Hurst. Mr. Hurst received the Silver Crescent Award from the Governor’s Office which was presented by Senator Larry Martin. Mr. Hurst also received other awards from Council and the Town of Six Mile.

Chairman Smith stated that Mr. Hurst will be missed by Council, Staff, and the Citizens of Pickens County.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Justice and Public Safety-Committee Chairman Randy Crenshaw gave the following report-

The Committee of Justice and Public Safety met on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 9:00 AM. Committee Chairman Randy Crenshaw presided; Councilman Jeff Martin and Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis were in attendance.

Staff:

Chap Hurst, County Administrator

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council  
 Donnie Green, Animal Control Officer  
 Rick Clark, Pickens County Sheriff

Item	Description	Referred	Action
1	Proposed Ordinance regarding pawnbrokers:  Retained 2012	06/18/2012	>Committee Recommends first reading of an ordinance as it relates to pawnbrokers Retain in committee-  >Council approved
2	Proposed Ordinance regarding scrap metal recyclers:  Retained 2012	06/18/2012	>Committee recommends first reading of an ordinance as it relates to scrap metal recyclers. >Committee also recommends the ordinance be retained in committee to give Sheriff Clark an opportunity to discuss the enforcement of the ordinance with businesses.  >Council approved
3	Gather information regarding Abandoned mills, and to study safety hazards and fire issues  Retained in this committee only 2012	10/01/2012--	No action, staff has created a listing with all pertinent information.
4	Council rules update and ethics	01/22/2013	No action.
5	Review of the animal control Ordinance	08/19/2013	>Committee recommends first reading of an amendment to Ordinance No. 317 Section 1, Section 8- (a) (b) & (c) –  >Committee recommends meeting again in January for feedback on proposed changes.  >Council approved

**COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mr. Ponder stated that the Delegation did meet in Dacusville. Mr. Ponder also concurred with some of the statements that were made during the public forum. Mr. Ponder stated it was good to have these open meeting, and the public should be more engaged with the facts.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business.



**12. Vineyards** requests the **re- appointments** of Jim Miller and new appointment of Ralph Odman.

Jim Miller

Ralph Odman

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Trey Whitehurst, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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G. Neil Smith, Chairman