

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
August 19, 2013
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 August 13, 2013

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 August 19, 2013 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Smith further 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.

- 1) Kelly Gandy – Ms. Gandy came before Council to advise them of her recent experience with Animal Control. Ms. Gandy stated that her cat was picked up by Animal Control, and euthanized within 24 hours. The ordinance states a minimum of (5) days. Ms. Gandy also gave Council Members a copy of State Law regulations. Admittedly, Ms. Gandy stated her pet had been missing for a few days, and that her cat was 17 years old. However, the point is the Department of Animal Control is not following the guidelines of the ordinance, and if they had followed the rules she would have her cat back. Ms. Gandy concluded by stating she would like to see council work on this ordinance and to further instruct the department to follow the ordinance moving forward.
- 2) Steve Crowe, Rebecca Daniels, and Bill Laymen- These citizens were members/volunteers for the organization of Seniors Unlimited. Mr. Crowe asked that Council assist this organization as it is going to be closed due to funding and building issues. Mr. Crowe emphasized that Seniors Unlimited took care of many senior citizens from all over the County. This care includes meals, home visits, recreation, and transportation. Ms. Daniels asked that Council consider doing something to keep the organization viable as she depends on Seniors Unlimited for transportation, meals, and house cleaning. Ms. Daniels stated she was legally blind, and if she did not have this resource, she could not live as independently. Mr. Laymen concluded by stating that these centers do so much for the quality of life for the seniors in Pickens County. Mr. Laymen stated it should be a high priority to assist and understand the issues facing the Seniors Unlimited Organization.

- 3) Junius Smith- Mr. Smith stated that while the Cities of Pickens and Easley have purchased the railroad, there is controversy about the contamination. Mr. Smith stated the citizens who opposed the railroad issue have a witness that will testify to the contaminants of the property. Mr. Smith also cautioned Council against providing recreation funds for this project. Mr. Smith concluded by giving accurate reports of the crimes that have taken place in Greenville County on the Swamp Rabbit Trail.
- 4) Weldon Clark-Mr. Clark stated that the railroad project seems to be moving forward as he noted the removal of the rails. Mr. Clark stated that Seniors Unlimited may want to approach the School Board due to the fact they have buildings that could be used as Senior Centers. Mr. Clark also reminded Council that the Taxpayers Association had sent out a letter requesting information about South Carolina Association of Counties.

With no other citizens addressing Council, Chairman Smith declared the public forum closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 10, 2013:

- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of June 10, 2013 as presented.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

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

- 1) Weather related road damage. Mr. Hurst reported that many of the roads that Council was recently informed about were repaired and open. However, a few are still in need of repair but are a priority. Mr. Hurst stated this summer’s rain fall has been disastrous on culverts, bridges, and roads. Mr. Hurst remarked that the C-Fund committee has been generous in their allotment of \$230,000 for these emergency improvements. Mr. Hurst also thanked the staff at Roads and Bridges for their efforts, as this rain has resulted in many nights and week-ends of work.
- 2) Fencing at the Airport- Mr. Hurst presented Council with pictures of the installed fence at the airport. Matching funds were provided from FAA. The fence not only provides security, but also is a buffer for the problems with the wildlife population. Mr. Hurst thanked Skeets Cooper and Roads and Bridges staff for their work to provide a road around the perimeter of the airport.
- 3) ISO Rating for Fire Districts. Mr. Hurst stated that Chuck Haynes has been working with Holly Springs and the ISO directors in order to qualify the fire district for a better ISO rating. Mr. Hurst stated that area has now gone from a 9 to an 8. This will have an approximate 20% decrease on homeowners insurance. Mr. Hurst stated the Emergency Management Director will be helping all the fire districts because many of the issues are simply the reporting/paperwork requirements.
- 4) Public Health and Safety- Mr. Hurst stated that the Emergency Operations Center has been hosting classes for training First Responders. These classes are utilizing certified instructors, and will better prepare these responders for emergency situations.
A similar program is also going on with paramedics. This training program is targeted to keep paramedics from leaving Pickens County and going to other Counties.
Mr. Hurst concluded by updating Council on the statistics of lives that are saved due to the counties recent education and upgrades. Mr. Hurst gave example of rapid airway opening, and cardiac cooling. Mr. Hurst also informed Council that last week the E911 department demonstrated the new equipment “Code Red.” This system allows the citizens of Pickens County to be phoned anytime of the day or night during an emergency situation such as Amber Alert, flood, or tornadoes. Mr. Hurst stated the E911 Department has handled this extremely well, and he is further encouraged by the level of training in 911 dispatch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1) **Administration and Finance.** Chairman Smith gave the following report-

**Neil Smith, Chairman
Trey Whitehurst
Jennifer Willis**

The Administration and Finance Committee met at 7:00 PM, following the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Thursday, 07/18/2013. Committee member Trey Whitehurst excused himself from the meeting as the discussion would be a conflict. Chairman Smith requested that Councilman Jeff Martin stay. Vice Chairman Tom Ponder was absent.

Staff:

Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Main Conference Room
Pickens County Administration Facility

Report:

Agenda Item No. 37—Lighting Project

>Committee recommended moving forward with the light project for DSS, Liberty Library, Health Department, Museum, Pickens Library, Vehicle Maintenance/EOC, LEC, Easley Library, Landfill, and Building Maintenance.

- Council approved the \$260,370.00 lighting project.

***note-Councilman Trey Whitehurst abstained from any conversation, debate or vote due to the fact he is employed by Net-Zero.*

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for new business.

- Chairman Smith moved to add a contractual issue to executive session. Motion received a second from Vice Chairman Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

REQUEST TO REMOVE BURDINE SPRINGS QUIT CLAIM DEED FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE:

- Motion was made by Councilman Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to remove this item from the committee log.

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE QUIT CLAIM DEED TO MR. ROBERT ELLSWORTH:

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed to approve the quit claim deed for Mr. Ellsworth in Burdine Springs.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING THREE MILLION DOLLARS (\$3,000,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2013 OF PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

- Motion was made by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading for bond issuance for Pickens and Liberty fire districts.

APPROVAL OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS WITH PICKEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Jeff Martin and unanimously passed to approve the county's mutual aid agreements as the list provides and also to include Clemson University police department.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as proposed.
 - Request from Cornerstone Bank to purchase property- Administration/Finance
 - Review the Animal Control Ordinance-Justice and Public Safety

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis, seconded by Councilman Trey Whitehurst and unanimously passed to convene in executive session, as amended, for the stated purposes.
 - Legal Update
 - Legal Issue
 - Contractual Issue (2) as amended
 - Boards and Commissions
 - Tri-County Tech.
 - Bethlehem Dacusville Water
 - Easley Central Water

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

Tri-County Technical College-Councilman Trey Whitehurst moved to allow Tri-County Technical College to utilize \$75,000 from Tri-County Technical College funds for engineering services as it relates to their administration building project; this does not obligate Pickens County to any cost associated with the building project. Chairman Smith gave the second. Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis clarified that this does not obligate Pickens County to costs associated with the engineering study or the building, that the County is supporting Tri-county to expend their funds. Both Councilman Trey Whitehurst and Chairman Smith concurred. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Bethlehem, Dacusville Rural Water District-Chairman Smith moved to re-appoint *Parker Haskett* for a term to expire 2015, *Thomas Watson* for a term to expire 2017, and *Austin Townsend* for a term to expire 2017. Chairman Smith stated this was a recommendation to the Governor's Office. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, and unanimously passed.

Easley-Central Water District- Chairman Smith moved to re-appoint *James Wilson* to the Easley Central Water District; again this is a recommendation to the Governor's Office. 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 Vice Chairman Tom Ponder, second by Councilwoman Jennifer H. Willis and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman