

May 19, 2008
Regular Council Meeting
6:00 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, May 14, 2008.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Ben L. Trotter, Vice Chairman
Randy Crenshaw
James B. London
Jennifer H. Willis

Absent: Tom E. Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore

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

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of May 19, 2008 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Crenshaw was asked to give the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of May 5, 2008.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee Chairman Ben Trotter gave the Justice and Public Safety Report.

The Committee of Justice and Public Safety met in the auditorium on May 6, 2008 at 5:00 PM with all members of Council in attendance.

The committee heard from anyone seeking to speak on the issue of district lines of the Six Mile and Central Fire Districts.

1. Discussion of moving the Fire District Boundaries in order for some of the current Six Mile Fire District to become part of the Central Fire District.
 - The Committee moved to recommend a first reading of an ordinance to amend the district lines as presented. This will amend both the Central and Six Mile Fire District boundaries.

>>Council unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst updated Council regarding the following issues:

1. Bio-Diesel fuel- Mr. Hurst stated the county is doing a pilot study which is converting used vegetable oil into bio-diesel fuel. Mr. Hurst stated this was an

exciting venture and so far the study was extremely successful. Mr. Hurst stated this could save the county thousands of dollars.

2. Tax Assessor's new web-site. Mr. Hurst stated that David Day's office has just completed their new web-site. Mr. Hurst stated this web-site was phenomenal. The site is beneficial to the tax payers and real-estate professionals. Mr. Hurst stated that because it has so many useful features, the Assessor's office would be providing demonstrations.

>>Councilwoman Willis stated she has used the site, and it is wonderful. Also she would like to know when demonstrations are going to be held.

Council Correspondence:

Wellness – Jennifer Willis stated she would like to challenge Pickens County to form a team for the September 2008 Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure. Mrs. Willis said this was a worthwhile cause and tied into the County's wellness plan and she would support a certain amount of funding being utilized for this effort.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. Additions to Executive Session-

1. Chairman Smith moved to add an economic development issue, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.
2. Randy Crenshaw moved to add appointments to the Six Mile Fire District and the Stormwater Board. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAY BEING PROCLAIMED AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to proclaim May as Older Citizens Month in Pickens County.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 400 FY 2008/2009 BUDGET ORDINANCE:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for any citizen wishing to address Council as it relates to Ordinance No. 400.

1. Phillip Snow requested that Council consider the funding for the magistrate facility, and wanted to be on record as being in favor of consolidating the offices.

With no other citizens asking to speak, Chairman Smith closed the public hearing and called for a motion that this constitutes second reading of Ordinance No. 400 FY 2008/2009 budget ordinance

➤ Motion was made by Jennifer Willis and seconded by Randy Crenshaw. that this constitutes a second reading.

- Ben Trotter moved to amend the FY 2008/09 budget to include \$10,000 to be earmarked for a period of one year to assist Seniors Unlimited with a building. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

>>>Council unanimously passed second reading as amended.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 401 FOR THE PURPOSE OF A FY 2007/2008 BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for any citizens wishing to address council as it relates to Ordinance No. 401.

1. Ray Steck- Mr. Steck spoke to council about the point of the budget having a \$4 million dollar surplus. Mr. Steck stated that in his opinion the surplus was not due to frugality, but was probably an underestimate of property value.
2. Sam Wyche- Mr. Wyche stated that he had recently been asked a question about the surplus and he would like an explanation.
3. Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark stated he thought that if the County had a balanced budget and no tax increase then the taxpayers should be satisfied with the performance of the County.

>>During discussion Chairman Smith stated the surplus is actually more than \$4 million dollars, but it is a percentage of an overall working budget, also noted that these monies are earmarked for other projects and the cost are not passed on to the taxpayer.

Jennifer Willis stated that an underestimation of property values is not the situation; Ms. Willis said that if citizens investigate, they will see a very conservative estimate on that issue.

Finance Director, Ralph Guarino stated that a surplus in 2007 was simply due to a lower expenditure and higher revenue.

Chairman Smith called for the motion that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 401.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of Ordinance No. 401.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 402 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN EQUIPMENT LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$360,000 RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT BY PICKENS COUNTY, (CROSSWELL) AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve third reading of Ordinance No. 402.

APPROVAL OF THE SURPLUS VEHICLE LIST:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the vehicle list as presented.

Consent Agenda:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.

Refer to the Public Service Committee – approval of 2008/09 paving list

Executive Session:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to convene in executive session, as amended for the stated purposes.

Chairman Smith stated for the public that one of the contractual issues would be a lengthy work session and that Council would be in session for a while.

- .Economic Development issue
- .Contractual Issue
- .Boards and Commissions
 - .Bethlehem Roanoke Rural Community Water District
 - .Cultural Commission
 - added: Six Mile Fire District
 - Stormwater Appeals Board

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

1. Cultural Commission –Jennifer Willis moved to re-appoint Gilda Hendricks and Judy Rozelle. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.
2. Bethlehem Roanoke Water District- Ben Trotter moved to appoint Frank Breazeale; motion was seconded by Chairman Smith and unanimously passed.
3. Six Mile Fire District- Randy Crenshaw moved to appoint Gary Ross; motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.
4. Stormwater Advisory Board – Randy Crenshaw moved to appoint FM Caddell. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

ADJOURN:

With there being no further business of the Council, Chairman Smith allowed a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by James London and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman