

June 15, 2009
Regular Council Meeting
6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were mailed to Council members and local news media, June 11, 2009.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Jennifer H. Willis, Vice Chairman
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
Tom Ponder
Sam Wyche

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator/EMS Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of June 15 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Wyche was asked to lead the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw to approve the minutes of June 1, 2009. All voted in favor with the exception of Chairman Smith and Tom Ponder who abstained due to their absence.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst gave the following report:

CAFRA award- Ralph Guarino and his staff were congratulated for receiving the CAFRA award again for this fiscal year. Mr. Hurst stated this is an award in financial excellence and is not easily obtained.

EPA- Early action program. Mr. Hurst stated that EPA is encouraged by counties who are trying to control emissions. Pickens County is applauded by the bio-diesel program, propane conversions, and electric lawnmowers. Mr. Hurst stated he thinks this will go a long way with air quality studies.

2010 Census Committee- Mr. Hurst stated the website has information about participating in the census. The Committee will be educating people on the importance of accuracy as the census numbers are important for federal dollars.

E911 public education program – This program is educating school age children who may be dialing 911 on cell phones. This is important because addressing is not tied to

cell phones as it is on landlines. This education is important as it will teach children how to tell a 911 operator where they are, and their exact location.

Council Correspondence:

Chairman Smith announced the following:

- Ribbon cutting of the new airport terminal – Friday, June 26, 2009
- June 25, 2009 – Clemson Depot, meeting relating to DOT project.
- Resignation of Rick Simmons, Veteran Affairs Officer
- Resignation of Ben Trotter from the Planning Commission
- Tiger Funds – Mrs. Willis said that at a recent G-PATS Meeting, information was given regarding “greenway” planning and linking parks together. Jennifer Willis stated these funds are available and not being utilized, and she would instruct the county to look into applying for the tiger funds.

Chairman Smith stated that unless any Council member had a conflict, he would set the following schedule as the 2009 summer schedule for Council Meetings.

- July 20th, 2009 at 6:30 PM
- August 17th, 2009 at 6:30 PM
- September 14th, 2009 at 6:30 PM

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

- Randy Crenshaw moved to add to the consent agenda for a study to be done regarding a satellite library branch in the Six Mile Area. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 420 FY BUDGET 2009/2010:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for public hearing as it relates to the FY 2010 Budget.

Weldon Clark- Mr. Clark stated he represented the Tax Payers Association and he would ask council to hold the line on spending as the citizens of Pickens County could not afford any more taxes.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Smith closed the Public Hearing and allowed the following motion.

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder and seconded by Sam Wyche that this constitutes a third and final reading of the FY 2010 Budget.

Chairman Smith called for motions of amendment to the budget.

Amendments:

- Tom Ponder moved to amend the FY 2010 budget by reducing the existing budget, as presented in the amount of \$1,149,643; as was the amount that Pickens County was cut by State Aid. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Chairman Smith read the list for the public and the press was given a copy.

- Jennifer Willis moved that the \$28,302 that has been reduced in the Veterans Affairs office is for the purpose of budget cuts, however the Legislative Delegation will determine if the Veterans Affairs Officer should be a part-time position and keeping the secretaries as full time, or to cut one of the secretary positions, at which time a position could be transferred. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Chairman Smith stated this motion is to clarify that the Veterans Affairs officer is to be a part-time position, and the delegation will approve. Also stated was that the council intends no cut to the Veterans benefits.
- Jennifer Willis moved to add back to the budget the \$25,000 for the free medical clinic and funding for secretary position in the delegation office, \$19,790, which would equal approximately \$45,000. Funding will come from the funding allocated for a public defenders position that has never been utilized. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.
- Jennifer Willis moved to take the savings from the Clerk of Courts office, \$38,668 and restore funding to the magistrates position of \$39,721, with any shortfall coming from contingency. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis and seconded by Randy Crenshaw to restore the items requested in capital from the Coroner, Keowee Springs, Crosswell fire, 911 upgrade, and tax assessor vehicles. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Jennifer Willis moved that funding of \$360,000 for the Alliance Pickens board be contingent on 2 members of that board becoming Council Members; one being elected by council as a whole, and one being the Chairman or Chairman's designee. Randy Crenshaw seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.
- Randy Crenshaw moved to restore Seniors Unlimited, Harvest Food Bank, and Meals on Wheels. Funding would come from contingency. All members voted in favor with the exception of Sam Wyche who abstained due to him being a board member for Meals on Wheels. Motion carried.
- James London moved to fund the Heritage Corridor, and stated the program returns what the counties are putting into it, especially with the efforts on tourism. Chairman Smith stated it was discussed to keep all those type funds in contingency in order to have money for the new tourism board. James London stated he would withdraw as long as the option was available for future funding.

Sam Wyche thanked the current council and previous councils for their foresight in preparing this budget and being ready for a downturn in the economy. Also Mr. Wyche said he was impressed with staff and the ability shown for taking care of tax payer's dollars. Chairman Smith concurred that he had been extremely stressed over this budget year and staff has done a great job during a difficult economic time.

- Chairman Smith called for the vote that this constitutes third reading of the FY 2010 budget. All Council voted in the affirmative.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw and seconded by Jennifer Willis to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
 1. Study of library locations in area of Six Mile or any other locations without a branch library. – Administration and Finance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the following purposes
Boards and Commissions
Worklink
Tourism-at large position
Personnel Issue

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

- Planning Commission--Sam Wyche moved to place Ray Steck on the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Ben Trotter. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.
- Worklink- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to place Mary Gaston, Ed Parris, Danny Fahey, David Collins, and Anne Holliday on the worklink board.
- Tourism- Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to place Pat Mulkey on the tourism board for the at large seat.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County