

March 01, 2010  
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, February 24, 2010.

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

Administrative Assistant, Sheila Tinsley

Absent: Clerk, Donna Owen

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator  
Ken Roper, County Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman London gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Forum:**

Chairman Smith opened the floor for public forum and asked Sheila Tinsley to call the citizens to the podium.

Bonnie Kay –Ms. Kay came before council to discuss the old Alice Mill, which is across from her home. Ms. Kay stated the mill is abandoned and unattractive. However her main concerns are also safety, as she informed Council that she has witnessed children playing in and around the area. Ms. Kay also stated the area is beginning to be a place where people are bringing trash. Ms. Kay stated she would be open to a community action plan that the whole neighborhood could participate.

Philip Smith – Mr. Smith informed Council that he personally has dedicated his website to recycling issues. Mr. Smith stated he has been dissatisfied with the City of Liberty and their efforts. Attention was also brought to the manner in which the recycling employees are picking up recycling. He allowed Council to view photos of the disarray of recycling bins after they were picked up.

Tom Hendricks – Tom Hendricks spoke about his dissatisfaction with recent information concerning the municipalities not being reasonable about trying to provide better numbers for recycling. Mr. Hendricks stated the County is hauling the municipal waste and it is a bargain for the municipalities, however he stated the deal may be too good, and perhaps the cities would like to go on their own for solid waste.

Bryan Bellotte - Mr. Bellotte came before Council to introduce the Golden Harvest Food Bank, which provides food for needy families in Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson County. The

distribution center is located on Highway 178, south of Liberty. Mr. Bellotte stated he wanted people to know that the service was available, as they were relatively new in this area.

Weldon Clark- Tax reassessment was a major issue this year as many citizens are in financial binds due to the economic issues. Mr. Clark requested that Council keep this in consideration as they prepare the budget.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and u to approve the February 16, 2010 minutes as presented.

**PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE REPORT:**

Alan Robinson with Cherry Bekaert, and Holland gave the 2009 Audit Report. Mr. Robinson stated the audit was clean and funds were being handled without citation. Mr. Robinson also called attention to the fact that the Finance Director has received the CAFRA award. It was explained that this is a very prestigious award, and not an easy award to receive.

During discussion, Council stated they would go through the audit report, but understood the report to define the County in good financial standing. Council also asked questions about funds security and diversifying funds.

**Administrator's Report:**

Airport- 2008/2009 airport report was given to Council. Mr. Hurst stated he wanted council to see the benefits of the improvements and growth at the airport.

Roads- Mr. Hurst introduced Joey Gray and Ricky Powell from Roads and Bridges. Mr. Hurst stated they have done an outstanding job with quality control of county roads. Mr. Hurst stated the employees have followed the road paving and in many circumstances, they have been responsible for the pavers doing the job over to ensure it was done properly. Mr. Hurst stated the quality control program is working and he wanted to commend both council and employees for this progress.

Cost for garbage pick up- Mr. Hurst provided Council with a cost of waste pick up of all the counties in South Carolina. Mr. Hurst stated most counties are charging \$75.00 per household, and Pickens County is much lower. Mr. Hurst also stated that as the budget process begins, that Pickens County may not be able to keep the low rates.

Recycling - Mr. Hurst provided Council with some numbers to encourage recycling; he stated \$247,000 had gone back into the participating municipalities, and over \$800,000 since the inception 14 years ago. Mr. Hurst stated these funds go the City of Central and dispersed to other participants.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Smith stated he had placed a couple of items on motion period from the Administration Log, and requested they be pulled from the committee.

*Items Chairman Smith will request being pulled from committee:*

- 1- - Sewer Ordinance
- 2- -Request from Behavioral Health-

- Jennifer Willis moved to pull the Behavioral Health request out of committee; motion was seconded by James London and unanimously passed.

**1) Behavioral Health Issue:**

Ken Roper explained this is a request from the state to amend the Behavioral Health Services plan to route the funds, which come from alcohol excise tax, directly to the State, so it can be used as a local government match for federal funds.

- Jennifer Willis moved to approve the amended plan, and the funds going to the state instead of the Behavioral Health Services. Motion was seconded by James London and unanimously passed.

## **2) Amended Sewer Ordinance**

- Jennifer Willis moved to remove the Sewer Ordinance from the committee; motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder that this constitutes a second reading.

During discussion, Dr. London stated he had an issue with the ordinance in the fact that it places the county in the retail service instead of wholesale. Dr. London stated the Ordinance still provides for residential. Dr. London stated he did not want the county retailing residential sewer. All Council concurred.

- Jennifer Willis moved to include all the amendments as provided by staff, and to include the amendments in the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed.
- Jennifer Willis amended the original motion that this constitutes second reading as amended and to go to the Committee of the Whole before third reading. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

## **SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 410 RELATING TO THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK.**

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed that this constitute second reading of an Ordinance to enlarge the business park in Pickens and Oconee Counties

**SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO DEVELOP A JOINT COUNTY BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (“OCONEE COUNTY”) SUCH BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 13 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION, AND SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS OF 1976 §4-1-170, ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXES TO PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, OCONEE COUNTY AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES; TO PROVIDE THAT JOBS TAX CREDITS ALLOWED BY LAW BE PROVIDED FOR BUSINESSES LOCATING IN SAID PARK; AND TO PERMIT A USER FEE-IN-LIEU OF *AD VALOREM* TAXATION WITHIN SAID PARK; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading of an Ordinance to develop a business park in Oconee County.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purpose.

Legal Update  
Aeronautics Commission

**PUBLIC SESSION BACK TO ORDER:**

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

Aeronautics Commission – Randy Crenshaw moved to appoint John Garner, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed.

**Adjourn:**

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for the motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

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Sheila Tinsley, Acting Clerk to Council

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G. Neil Smith, Chairman  
Pickens County Council