

June 21, 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, June 16, 2010.

Council Members in attendance:

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

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of 6/21/2010 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Councilman Sam Wyche.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 7, 2010

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of June 7, 2010. Chairman Smith abstained due to his June 7th, 2010 absence.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hurst informed Council of the following issues.

1. Fitch ratings- Mr. Hurst stated that the County must periodically go through the bond rating. This has been completed with Fitch, Inc. Mr. Hurst stated that Pickens County kept the AA rating due to a strong reserve, an excellent debt ratio, and solid financial practices. Mr. Hurst stated the only thing that keeps Pickens County from a AAA rating is the environment for high technology economic development. Mr. Hurst stated that some municipalities and counties lost ratings this year due to the economy. Mr. Hurst thanked council and staff for being able to keep a AA rating.
2. Department of Corrections Contract. Mr. Hurst stated it was time to sign the contract with the Department of Corrections as it relates to working the State inmates. Mr. Hurst stated unless Council had objection, he would be signing the contract and returning it to the State. Council had no objection.
3. Norfolk Southern Train Derailment- Mr. Hurst stated the Norfolk Southern train derailment which took place on June 10, 2010, in Liberty was now in the full recovery phase. Mr. Hurst stated he is getting updates relating to soil and water readings for contamination, and so far all reports are excellent. Mr. Hurst informed Council that he thought the staff and all responding emergency teams did a wonderful job with this derailment. Mr. Hurst stated he would continue to keep Council updated regarding this phase of the clean-up.

>>Chairman Smith stated this incident took place in his district and he stated that he thought Lynn Fisher and staff did a great job. Mr. Smith stated he had this issue in the committee because he went to shelters when citizens were evacuated, and realized a need for certain provisions, especially when young children were involved.

Chairman Smith also asked staff to look at some type of achievement award.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole: Chairman Smith will request the Sewer Ordinance be pulled for third and final reading.

Chairman Smith informed Council that he has placed the Sewer Ordinance on the table and would like a motion to pull said ordinance from the committee of the whole.

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Sam Wyche and unanimously passed to pull the sewer ordinance from committee.
- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by James London that this constitute a third reading of the Ordinance.
- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, and seconded by James London to amend section 2-233, paragraph 1 (f)- to strike the phrase “to residential, commercial or industrial customer.” Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by James London and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading as amended.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Tom Ponder stated the South Carolina Forestry Commission was going to contact the Clerk for a request to be on the agenda. Mr. Ponder stated the Forest Service has some economic development ideas they would like to share with Pickens County.

Jennifer Willis stated she attended a GPATS meeting, and there were discussions regarding training sessions on MPOs. Mrs. Willis stated with the upcoming census reports; this may be a session that will interest people. Mrs. Willis further stated the facilitators will come on site to do training sessions.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Smith opened the floor for motions relating to new business.

- Jennifer Willis moved to add a personnel item to the executive session. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Hearing no further motions, Chairman Smith closed motion period for new business.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

THIRD READING OF THE FY 2009-2010 BUDGET AMENDMENT, ORDINANCE NO. 430

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third reading of Ordinance No. 430.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE 431 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE TRANSFER OF PICKENS COUNTY'S INTEREST IN CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, KNOWN AS THE TRI-COUNTY LANDFILL PROPERTY; AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF PICKENS COUNTY'S INTEREST IN THE TRI-COUNTY LANDFILL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCEPTABLE Bid To Purchase The Tri-County Landfill Property; And, Further, Approving And AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A SALES AGREEMENT AND DEED TO REAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCEPTABLE BID TO PURCHASE THE TRI-COUNTY LANDFILL PROPERTY; AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO:

Chairman Smith stated a Public Hearing being legally advertised was now open for any comments from the public as it relates to the Tri-County landfill property. Hearing none the public hearing was closed.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed that this constitutes a third and final reading of Ordinance No. 431.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 432 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOTE EXCEEDING ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2010 OF PICKENS COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES OF WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

- Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a second reading for Ordinance No. 432.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 384 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 Tom Ponder and unanimously passed that this constitutes a first reading for an ordinance to amend the Oconee and Pickens park agreement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Contractual Issues (2)
Legal updates
Boards and Appointments –
 Rocky Bottom Fire District
 Vineyards Fire District
 Pickens Alliance
 Personnel Issue

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

- Jennifer Willis moved to authorize the Administrator to move forward in pursuing project DELTA. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.
- Motion was made by Sam Wyche and seconded by Tom Ponder to appoint Ed Kelly to the Rocky Bottom Fire District. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion was made by Sam Wyche and seconded by Chairman Smith to appoint Ron McGimpsey to the Vineyards Fire District. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further business, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Pickens County Council