

\*\*Please note - These are not official minutes of the Pickens County Council meeting. This reflects the issues that were before Council and shows the actions, however the minutes are not "official" until the County Council meets and approves them as presented. Please contact, Donna Owen, Council Clerk for any questions.

March 6, 2006  
Regular Meeting  
7:00 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman Jennifer H. Willis presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting, were mailed to Council members and local news media, February 28, 2006.

Council Members in attendance:

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman  
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro Tempore  
C. Roy Collins  
Tom Ponder  
Ben L. Trotter

G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman – absent

Staff: Ralph Guarino, Interim County Administrator  
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator  
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council  
Ken Roper, County Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Willis called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. James London gave the invocation.

Council made mention of the Assistant County Administrator, Mr. Lynn Fisher returning from Washington, DC after a year of service to the military. Mr. Fisher was welcomed back.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 02/21/06**

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of 2/21/06 as presented.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

1. **Lejette Gatlin, Pickens County Clerk of Court.** Mrs. Gatlin informed Council that she had recently requested (2) flat screen monitors for her office, and the request had been denied. Mrs. Gatlin stated the flat screen monitors provided more workspace for her staff and were more efficient. Also Mrs. Gatlin stated she felt as Clerk of Court, she should be the person to decide what was most beneficial for the courthouse.
2. **Junius Smith.** Mr. Smith came before Council to inform them of a citizens group called CARAST, which stood for Citizens Against Reassessment and Sales Tax.

Mr. Smith stated this group is 300 strong and continuing to grow. On other matters, Mr. Smith stated that Belle Shoals was in need of the shoulders being fixed, and noted several wrecks had occurred because of the disrepair. Mr. Smith informed Council that Charter Communications had doubled a fee on their bill and stated it was a county charge. However, when he called County Staff, and the County Attorney, he was told there had been no increase. Mr. Smith provided staff with a copy of the Charter bill, and was told this would be looked into.

**3. Rhonda Billingsley, Joan Redds, and Robert Campbell, Pumpkintown Fire District.** Citizens came to Council voicing concerns with the Pumpkintown Fire District. One issues is the Pumpkintown Fire Chief has asked for a \$6,000.00 stipend for his services. Citizens expressed concern over volunteers being paid, and referred to the fairness of one person getting paid and not the others. Also concerns were voiced over the Advisory Committee for the fire district. Ms. Billingsley asked that Council provide some guidance to the Board so they would know what was proper. Ms. Billingsley stated the fire chief is creating budgets, which should be completed by the Board. Mr. Campbell stated he was selling his home in Pumpkintown and moving due to some of the fee/millage issues and informed council that he could not afford some of their ideals.

**4. Paula Reel, Region I Coordinator Heritage Corridor.**

Ms. Reel informed Council of an event that was taking place on March 30, 2006; the event is to promote the Region 1 tourist sites. Ms. Reel stated this was going to involve Pickens, Anderson, and Oconee Counties. She stated the legislative officials would also be involved. Council was provided packets of information for the stated tour.

#### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

Mr. Guarino gave Council the monthly finance report. Council was also updated regarding the tax billing error for Duke Power. County Auditor, George Bryant informed Council that Duke Power was in the process of sending the additional funds. Also Mr. Bryant stated responsibility for the billing error and said it was a confusing bill to process, but Duke Power quickly assisted in resolving the issue.

#### **MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Councilman Trotter requested that the Administrator look into the issue of litter officers to only be assigned to litter. Mr. Trotter stated he thought the litter officers were not focused enough on litter and fines for litter. Mr. Trotter also stated he had gone the Hagood Elementary School to see the presentation of the *Trash Bash*. Mr. Trotter stated this to be a successful program.
2. Ben Trotter moved to send to a work session of council the issue of fire district by-laws, and to study issues regarding the advisory boards. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed. Mr. Trotter also requested that the Clerk send all minutes of fire district to council members.
3. Tom Ponder moved to refer the issue of Sewer at Quail Haven to the Public Service Committee. Motion was seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed.

4. Tom Ponder moved to refer an issue at Dacusville Recreation to the Public Service Committee. Mr. Ponder stated they needed some assistance with a storm water issue, and also stated this department needs assistance due to the fact they do not have a municipality to help them like most of the other recreation departments. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.
5. Councilman Ponder requested the Administrator to begin the process of Council being able to recognize the retired employees at a Council meeting.
6. Councilman Trotter commented on the fact that when Council is in executive session, it is his understanding that the discussion is extremely sensitive and confidential. Mr. Trotter stated that he was aware of some discussions being discussed outside of executive session, and he thought it important to state this is not professional and should not be happening. Other Council members concurred with Mr. Trotter's comments.

**APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION NO. 06-03 TO ACCEPT THE GRANT MATCH FOR THE CATEECHEE MILL VILLAGE SEWER UPGRADE:**

>>Chairman Willis asked Council if they would consider this issue being delayed until the meeting of March 20, 2006, as she was not clear on the DHEC fines which are associated with approval. Chairman Willis further moved for this to be delayed. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

**CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATION OF CATEECHEE MILL VILLAGE SEWER SYSTEM UPON THE AWARD OF GRANT FUNDING AND COMPLETION OF UPGRADES TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY AND PUMP STATION. AN APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT WILL BE SUBMITTED IN APRIL:**

>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to delay stated action until March 6, 2006.

**CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 FROM HOMELAND SECURITY TO INSTALL A 150 FT. TOWER ON GLASSY MOUNTAIN:**

No matching funds are required to accept this grant. Approval of this grant is recommended

>>Motion to accept the grant was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

**A REQUEST FROM THE MUSEUM DEPARTMENT TO ADD TWO TELEPHONE LINES TO THE MUSEUM. WHEN TWO POSITIONS WERE ADDED TO THE MUSEUM THIS PAST YEAR, TELEPHONE LINES WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST OF ADDING THE POSITIONS. THE ANNUAL COST OF TWO TELEPHONE LINES IS \$720.00. THE COST TO INSTALL THE TELEPHONE LINES IS \$200.00:**

Approval of this request is recommended.

>>Motion was made by James London, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to allow stated funding.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mr. Trotter stated he wanted some discussion on the consent item, thus it was removed from consent and discussed.

**Issues of the Roads and Bridges Department referred to the Public Service Committee:**

>>Mr. Trotter stated he would like to refer this issue to committee, but moved to amend the motion that this issue is studied within 45 days. Amendment was seconded by Tom Ponder. All members voted in favor with the exception of Roy Collins who opposed. Amendment carried.

>>Tom Ponder moved, seconded by Ben Trotter that this issue be referred to committee as amended. All members voted in favor with the exception of Roy Collins who opposed. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- Appointments to Boards and Commissions

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purpose.

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

>>Chairman Willis called the meeting back to order and heard the following motions:

**Board of Zoning and Appeals.** Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to appoint Mr. Harry Carson to the Board of Zoning and Appeals.

**Tri-County Technical College.** Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to re-appoint Mendel Stewart to the Tri-County Tech Board.

**ADJOURN:**

With there being no further business of the Council, motion to adjourn was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:30 PM.

**Respectively Submitted:**

**Approved:**

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman