

**\*\*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.**

June 5, 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, May 30, 2006.

Council Members in attendance:  
Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman  
G. Neil Smith, Vice Chairman  
James B. London, Vice Chairman Pro Tempore  
C. Roy Collins  
Tom Ponder  
Ben L. Trotter

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

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Willis called the meeting of June 5, 2006 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Invocation was given by Councilman Ben Trotter

**Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Neil Smith moved to approve the following minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed.

May 15, 2006	Regular Council Meeting
May 23, 2006	Special Council Meeting
May 24, 2006	Special Council Meeting
May 25, 2006	Special Council Meeting
May 31, 2006	Special Council Meeting

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Willis opened the floor for any citizens wishing to address Council. Mrs. Willis asked that citizens keep their comments to 3 to 5 minutes.

Weldon Clark- Zoning. Mr. Clark stated to Council that he read an article in a local newspaper from a citizen who was favoring zonings. Mr. Clark stated his opposition to zoning.

Garvin Bolding- Six Mile Fire District. Mr. Bolding stated the Six-Mile Fire District has proposed millage fees for the Six-Mile Fire District. He stated this was brought about because of development in a certain part of Six-Mile and he was in favor of redrawing the district line so they could have millage, but he was not in favor of millage for the other parts of Six-Mile.

Sarah Rampey- Central Fire District. Mrs. Rampey stated she was currently located in the Six-Mile Fire District, but is requesting that this be revisited due to her residence and others would now benefit regarding (ISO ratings) insurance and fire protection, by being in the Central Fire District.

Junius Smith- Taxes, Charter Communications, and Six Mile Fire. Mr. Smith made reference to articles written by the County Auditor, George Bryant, regarding re-assessment. Mr. Smith stated it is not legal to put delinquent tax funds in a current year budget. Also it is not legal to have a windfall during a reassessment year. Again Mr. Smith questioned the accounting principals, but did state he had spoken with Mr. Guarino, and he understood what needed to be done. Also Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Guarino for the letter he recently submitted to Charter Communications about the fees. Mr. Smith agreed with Mr. Bolding regarding the Six-Mile fire District and stated perhaps it was time for two separate departments.

Ben Kissam- Litter & Road Ordinance. Ben Kissam stated he had been with the Beautification Committee for years and they had always picked up trash in the whole county, regardless of County Road or State. Dr. Kissam stated the new road ordinance which prohibits the litter crews from picking up on State roads is a huge mistake and also revenue comes from the trash that is gathered. Dr. Kissam stated the average person, or a visitor does not recognize the difference of a County or State Road, they just know when they see litter.

Jay Smith- Rock Sound Road. Mr. Smith provided Council with pictures of a junkyard that was located at the intersection of Ireland Road and Taber Wood Road. Mr. Smith requested that someone look into the situation.

Council thanked the citizens for their comments, and informed Ben Kissam regarding the litter issue that they realized the importance of litter free highways, but the county road fee pays for the litter crews, and the State needs to assist. Mr. Smith stated the State has persisted in unfunded mandates that are passed on to the local level.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- Justice and Public Safety Report; Committee Chairman Tom Ponder reported the following

The Justice and Public Safety Committee met on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 at 5:00 PM, with Committee Chairman Tom Ponder presiding. All members of the committee were in attendance.

Other Council Members:  
C. Roy Collins

Staff:  
Ralph Guarino, Interim Administrator

Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

Item	Description	Referred	Report
4	Fire District By-Laws Pulled from committee of the whole 05/15/06	05/15/06	No action, committee instructed that a letter and a draft of proposed by-laws be sent out to Fire District Chairmen, and information will come back to the committee.

**ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

- Mr. Guarino informed Council that the County had received the Cateechee Mill Village Grant in the amount of \$166,250.00.

**MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

Ben Trotter stated that the WINGS program at the Pickens County Airport on Saturday was very good, and further recognized Mr. Skeets Cooper.

>>Neil Smith moved to add to the agenda an executive session item to include a personnel issue to discuss recruitment of a County Administrator. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed to add for referral to committee the request regarding City of Liberty's TIF District.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 379, FY 2006-2007 BUDGET ORDINANCE:**

Chairman Willis called the public hearing to order and encouraged citizens to speak regarding the budget. With no citizens wishing to speak, Chairman Willis closed the public hearing.

Councilman Smith stated to the audience this is a balanced budget without a tax increase.

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder that this constitutes a second reading of the FY 2006/2007 Budget Ordinance.

- Roy Collins moved to take the proceeds from the sale of the Easley Library and place those funds in the Capital account. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

Neil Smith stated for clarification that these funds would become earmarked for capital.

- Roy Collins moved to delete the position of Safety Coordinator and Property Lister from the budget; motion was seconded by Neil Smith.

During discussion council did not deny the fact of some needs in Human Resources and stated the motion to reflect a deletion of the positions but to allow the new administrator discretion in evaluating the position in Human Resources and Tax Assessors. Ben Trotter stated opposition to the funds staying in contingency.

>>Motion carried with Neil Smith, Roy Collins, James London and Chairman Willis voting in favor, Ben Trotter and Tom Ponder voting in opposition

- Roy Collins moved to reduce the fuel budget by 10%. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.
- Neil Smith moved for any new vehicle, even if it is passed in the budget process, this would come back to council before the vehicle is purchased. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and passed with a unanimous vote.
- Neil Smith moved to take \$40,000 from the previous amendment regarding fuel, and to purchase tracking devices for county vehicles. Motion was seconded by Roy Collins and unanimously passed.
- Roy Collins moved to reduce the Roads & Bridges budget by \$120,000 as requested to eliminate the motor grader and to purchase a small asphalt roller and maintainer. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.
- Roy Collins moved to reduce the budget by \$30,402.00 as requested due to the Medically Indigent Program. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.

Mr. Guarino made mention of the fact that this would leave a balance of \$19,000 in order to further decide about the MIAP program.

- Neil Smith moved to remove the position of paramedic, Roy Collins seconded the motion.

During discussion Ben Trotter stated he thought the EMS staff had done well to carry on services without the supervisors, and he was not in favor of eliminating the position. Tom Ponder stated the citizens of Pickens County had completed a survey a few years ago, and public safety was the top issue.

>>Neil Smith, Roy Collins and James London voted in favor, and Ben Trotter, Tom Ponder and Chairman Willis opposed. Motion failed.

- James London moved to fund from contingency the \$35,000 as requested by the Vision 2025. Dr. London explained this is a one time funding, and stated the necessity for proper planning. Dr. London's motion also included that the funding be contingent upon other matching funds and the county having direct input. Chairman Willis seconded the motion.

During discussion Ben Trotter stated he could not support paying people who are not familiar with Pickens County to do this type of assignment. Dr. London explained funding is for a professional facilitator to provide the guidance. Again, Dr. London stated the need for vision and plans, and also pointed out the requested amount is 1/10 of a mill.

>>>Motion failed with James London and Chairman Willis approving the funding, and Tom Ponder, Roy Collins, Ben Trotter, and Neil Smith opposing.

- Neil Smith moved to allow the Vineyards Fire District to reduce their FY budget by \$75,000 and allow them to adjust millage accordingly.

>> Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

>>Motion that this constitute second Reading of the FY 2006 / 2007 budget as amended passed with Chairman Willis, Neil Smith, Tom Ponder, Ben Trotter, and Roy Collins voting in favor. James London opposed.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 380, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSFERRING AUTHORITY OVER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF CLEMSON TO PICKENS COUNTY REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS.**

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed that this constitutes second reading of Ordinance No. 380.

**CONSIDERATION OF A FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS IN PICKENS COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 22, TITLED FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION; TO PROVIDE THAT SECTION 22-56; 22-86; 22-116; 22-146; 22-176; 22-206; 22-236; 22-266; 22-316; 22-346.** These sections amended to mandate a public election for changing a fee based structure to a millage rate.

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to give a courteous first reading and refer to the Justice and Public Safety Committee.

**APPROVAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY LIST:**

>>Motion was made by Roy Collins, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to approve the surplus property list.

Roy Collins moved to amend the motion to reflect that surplus property that could be traded in, be removed from going to auction. Neil Smith seconded the amendment.

During discussion, council requested that Mr. Guarino make a list of such property.

Thus, both the makers and the second of the motion withdrew and further Roy Collins moved to table for the next regular meeting, Neil Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION:**

>>Councilman Smith moved to approve, motion was seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

**APPROVAL FOR FUNDS FROM CONTINGENCY TO PROVIDE FOR YEAR-END ADJUSTMENTS:**

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by James London to approve moving the 146,088.000 from contingency for the unexpected expenses for the current budget year.

Mr. Guarino provided this amount will cover the following:

- Finance \$3,000 Health Insurance
- Economic Development \$11,842 Salary Adjustment Economic Board has reimbursed us for this amount

- Solid Waste \$30,000 Fuel for Hauling Waste to Homer Georgia
- Magistrate Court \$11,246 Vacation Payout for Judge Retirement and Health Insurance Adjustment
- Sheriff \$90,000 Food for inmates (\$40,000) Fuel for Patrol (\$50,000)

Mr. Trotter asked about this item failing at the last council meeting. Mr. Guarino stated that was a proposed budget amendment, and now he was requesting to move the funds from contingency. Tom Ponder stated these are things that happen during the year, and there is no choice but to move the funds.

>>Chairman Willis, James London, Tom Ponder and Roy Collins voted in favor; Ben Trotter and Neil Smith opposed. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

>>Mr. Trotter requested discussion on item (G) therefore, item was removed from consent and discussed.

**PLANS REGARDING ANIMAL CONTROL TASK FORCE ISSUES; REFER TO THE JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Trotter questioned the fact if this committee was still active, and asked about the set aside funding that provided for the spay and neuter programs.

Mr. Guarino stated he had met with Mr. Vance, Chairman of that Committee, but he did not know if the committee itself was still active. And the funding of 10,000.00 was still set aside for the program.

>>Neil Smith moved to put the funding in contingency. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the following items via consent.

Study all fee related departments; Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee

Proposed Changes to the DSO as it relates to Building Set back requirements; Refer to the Education, Recreation, Health Welfare and County Planning Committee

Road Paving List FY 2007; Refer to the Public Service Committee.

Study the County Benefit Package; Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee.

Consider hours of operation regarding the Recycling Centers; Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee.

Issues regarding Jacks Field Road; Refer to the Public Service Committee

Proposed bids for awnings at main entrances at the Administration Building; Refer to the Administration and Finance Committee

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

- Appointments: Mental Health Board
- Personnel; to discuss issues regarding Organizational Chart
- Personnel; to discuss candidates for Administrator

**PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:**

Chairman Willis called the public session back to order and stated no action.

**ADJOURN:**

With there being no further business before the Pickens County Council, motion to adjourn was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 10:50 PM.

**Respectively Submitted:**

**Approved:**

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Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

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Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman