

****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.**

November 20, 2006
Regular Meeting
6:00 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, November 14, 2006,

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

Absent: C. Roy Collins

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
Ken Roper, County Attorney
Olivia Vassey, Research Analyst
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Willis called the meeting of November 20, 2006 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Tom Ponder gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of November 6, 2006 as presented.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

1. Thanksgiving Food Drive. Mr. Hurst reported that County Employees had donated enough food for 21 families in Pickens County to have a meal this Thanksgiving and also raised over \$600.00. Mr. Hurst stated he was very proud of the employees and the Human Resources Committee for their hard work.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. Addition to agenda for Executive Session. Chairman Willis moved to add to executive session a board appointment to the Economic Development Alliance. Motion was seconded by James London and unanimously passed.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2005/2006 AUDIT REPORT:

Chuck Talbert came before council to provide the 2005/2006 Audit Report. Mr. Talbert informed council that the Audit was clean and no findings of concern were found. Also noted was good management of financial responsibilities and good accounting practices are being utilized. Council was provided with a Management Letter. Council was also informed if they any questions now or in the future to not hesitate to communicate.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 06-11 FOR PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA JOBS-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JEDA) BONDS ON BEHALF OF PALMETTO HEALTH ALLIANCE NOT TO EXCEED \$140,000,000:

Chairman Willis called the public hearing to order and welcomed citizen input.

Kathy McKinney with Haynesworth, Sinkler and Boyd informed the public that this is a standard JEDA bond and in no way increases debt to the County or the County Tax Payers. And that the law provides for a public hearing in the county where the bonds are being issued.

Chairman Willis closed the public hearing.

>>Motion to approve resolution No. 06-11 was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH PICKENS COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS FOR 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX TO THE COUNTIES AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES:

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith and seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed that this constitutes first reading of stated ordinance.

CONSIDERATION TO USE SEWER FUNDS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; REGARDING NEW SEALEVEL SYSTEMS FACILITY:

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Ben Trotter to utilize the sewer funds for Sealevel Systems new facility. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Council stated these were funds that are already available via a grant, and must be used for this type of infrastructure.

CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT MAPLE CREEK ESTATES INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM:

>>Motion was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Chairman Willis and unanimously passed to accept Maple Creek into the road system for the purpose of minimum maintenance only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

>>Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Mr. Trotter and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

- Appointment to the Water Authority
- Appointment to the Liberty Fire District
- Appointments to Workforce Investment Board
- Appointment to Economic Development Alliance
- Legal Issue regarding Accommodations Tax

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

- Appointment to the Water Authority- no action
- Appointment to the Liberty Fire District- Neil Smith moved to appoint Brian Finley to the Liberty Fire District, seconded by Tom Ponder. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- Appointments to Workforce Investment Board- no action.
- Appointment to Economic Development Alliance- Chairman Willis moved to place Joel Ledbetter on the Economic Development Alliance Board. Noted this is an appointment under Business/Industry. Motion was seconded by Neil Smith and unanimously passed.
- Legal Issue regarding Accommodations Tax- no action

ADJOURN:

With no further business before the Council, motion to adjourn was made by Neil Smith, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:15 PM

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

Jennifer H. Willis, Chairman

