

March 19, 2007
Regular Council Meeting
6:00PM

County Council met in regular session, in the auditorium, County Administration Facility, with Chairman G. Neil Smith presiding. Agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting, were mailed to Council members and local news media, March 14, 2007.

Council Members in attendance:

G. Neil Smith, Chairman
Ben L. Trotter, Vice Chairman
Tom E. Ponder, Vice Chairman Pro-Tempore
Randy Crenshaw
James B. London
Jennifer Willis

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

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of March 19, 2007 to order and welcomed those in attendance. James London further gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter to approve the minutes of March 5, 2007. All members voted in favor with the exception of Chairman Smith who abstained due to his absence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Administration and Finance- Chairman Smith gave the following report.

Report:

The Administration and Finance Committee met in the Main Conference Room with Chairman Smith presiding. All Committee members were in attendance.

Other Council Members in attendance:
Ben Trotter
Randy Crenshaw

Staff:
Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Donna Owen, Clerk to Council
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director
Olivia Vassey, Research Analyst
Jennifer Graham, Human Resources Director

Item	Description	Report
10	Report by the Aeronautics Commission Retained 12/04/2006	No action committee heard a brief report from the administrator regarding the plans for the terminal building have expanded and the council will be briefed in detail at a future meeting. Committee requested detailed cost estimates for the proposed building.
19	Request - City of Liberty's Tiff District. Retained 12/04/2006	>>Committee recommends removing from the log. Council unanimously approved
20	Study all fee related departments Retained 12/04/2006	No action
21	Study the County Benefit Package Retained 12/04/2006	No action, committee requested an outline of all the proposed changes.
22	Consider hours of operation regarding the Recycling Centers Retained 12/04/2006	Committee recommends staff to close the scale house and C&D landfill for holidays. Committee requested this be removed from the log.
28	Study the structure of fees/millage within all fire districts. <u>*New Ordinance to replace individual fire district ordinance has received 1st reading.</u> Specifically stated was to look at uniformity. Retained 12/04/2006 Millage ordinance no. 381. First read 6/5/06 Second read 8/21/06 Third read	>>Committee recommends second reading as amended. >>Committee recommends Ordinance No. 381, which has received a 1st and 2 nd reading, to come out of committee. Committee does not recommend a third reading due to the creation of a new uniform ordinance, and the creation of fire district by-laws. Council unanimously approved. Council also removed ordinance No. 381 from the log as it did not receive third reading.
31	Policy for waiving fees for non-profit organizations Retained 12/04/2006	>Staff will make appropriations in the budget for council members to set aside funds for non-profits and special events.

32	Ordinance relating to the Brunswick Yarn Manufacturing Facility		No action, Committee is requesting further explanation and clarification regarding the legal mandates of this ordinance.
33	Wellness Program for County Employees		No action, Committee received updates regarding current programs.
34	Funding for Heritage Corridor		No action
35	Request from the Pickens Fire District.		>>Committee approves request contingent upon the purchased equipment belonging to the Rural Fire District. Council approved.
36	Funding requirements for budget approval.		>>Committee recommends that outside agencies provide the following criteria when requesting funds: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Description of the organization 2. Board of Directors 3. Current financial statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most recent income statement • Balance sheet 4. Purpose of fund request; (continuing expense or capital improvement, etc) 5. If funds are granted, provide council with a semi-annual status report. Council unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

- ***Courthouse Incident Command Exercise***

Mr. Hurst provided council with the following memorandums:

As you know, the County and all jurisdictions have been mandated to participate and complete courses in the Incident Command System (ICS). To date, over 100 County employees have completed at least a portion of the courses.

Lynn Fisher has been in consultation with the Sheriff's Department and the Clerk of Court concerning a requirement placed on the County by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. As a part of the increased emphasis on security at the Courthouse, Chief Justice Toal requires all Courthouses in the state to participate in at least one event per year that demonstrates the County's ability to manage an incident using the principles outlined in the Incident Command System.

To that end, we have planned for and scheduled a simulated hostage situation at the Pickens County Courthouse. We will conduct a Table Top Exercise on Friday, March 16th here at the Administration Facility, in the Auditorium. Captain Phil Sargent sent out notifications to all participants and I have attached a copy for your edification.

We will follow up the Table Top event with a Field Exercise on April 11, 2007, at 1:15 P.M. During this event, a hostage situation will be simulated. Concurrent with this, the Clerk of Court will conduct an evacuation drill, which is a part of her normal security steps now. The plan is to move the Mobile Command Vehicle to the Pickens First Baptist Church Youth Center and set up a Unified Command Post there. Normal Court operations will only be disrupted long enough for the Clerk of Court to move all personnel to the alternate location, get accountability, and move back to the Courthouse. The Unified Command Team will spend the next 3 hours or so creating an Incident Action Plan for this particular incident.

The local Press has been invited to both events to both get the word out from a deterrence standpoint and to interface with the Unified Command Team as a part of the exercise. I have attached a copy of the timeline of events for your review.

Please let me know if you have questions about either of these events.

- ***Mile Creek Park Lease Extension***

Duke Energy Corporation has agreed to extend the lease for Mile Creek Park to 2037. This is a 30-year extension and will allow the County to seek grants to improve the infrastructure of the Park and also allocate taxpayer funding to projects that will improve the overall quality of the Park. This agreement provides for a plan of improvements that was worked out with Dale Powell that takes into consideration input from various sources. As we approach the budget discussions, you will see numerous expenditures that are included in the plan such as ice machines, bait vending machines, improvement of campsites and other amenities. All of these should enhance our revenue stream and will provide a payback to the County over time. I appreciate Duke's reception to our proposal for this extension in that the extension actually exceeds Duke's current licensing agreement. I would appreciate your adding this to the agenda approving this extension for 30 years.

- ***Purchase of Land for Landfill cover***

The C & D Landfill will be closed out within the next 24 months. In order to facilitate this process and to do it in the most cost efficient manner, I am recommending purchase of property. Please note the executive session has a contractual item and discussion will be had at that time.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Smith announced the 2006 Melba McKenzie volunteer of the year award given to the Pickens County Beautification Committee. Chairman Smith called upon Ken Roper to read the resolution as he asked the committee to step forward.

- A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PICKENS COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, A COMMITTEE CREATED BY PICKENS COUNTY COUNCIL TO ADVISE COUNCIL ON MATTERS AFFECTING LITTER PREVENTION, BEAUTIFICATION, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING IN PICKENS COUNTY.

>Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 07-03.

Chairman Smith called upon Ben Kissam, Chairman of the Beautification Committee. Dr. Kissam stated he was very proud of this committee and introduced each member. Dr. Kissam also thanked Judy Wood for the staff support and County Council for their continued support.

Chairman Smith and Council congratulated the committee and further made mention of the many things they have done to improve the county.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

- Lease with Duke Energy.** Jennifer Willis moved to add to the agenda for action, Lease with Duke Energy and Mile Creek Landing. Motion was seconded by James London and unanimously passed.
- Tar and Gravel road estimates.** Ben Trotter moved to add to the consent agenda for the purpose of being sent to committee, the issue of using tar and gravel on minimum maintenance roads instead of gravel.
- Permanent Easements for right of ways.** Ben Trotter moved to add to the consent agenda for the purpose of being sent to committee, the issue of the road ordinance as it relates to permanent easements for right of ways.
- Pickens County to send out (2) tax notices.** Ben Trotter moved to add to the consent agenda for the purpose of being sent to committee, the issue of tax notices being split into (2) separate notices in order for citizens to receive a school tax notice and a county tax notice.

Chairman Smith stated a point of order that if Mr. Trotter wanted this “added to the consent agenda” then it would take a unanimous vote, however one dissenting vote would place the issue in committee, therefore he would oppose the motion so the issue would go to committee. Mr. Trotter stated his motion was for the purpose of going to committee. Chairman Smith stated once this item is on the agenda then it could be pulled for action. Chairman Smith stated we would process these committee motions this evening with his ruling, and get clarification for future votes.

>>Motions failed with; Neil Smith, James London, Tom Ponder, and Randy Crenshaw opposing. Chairman Smith ruled the issues going to the appropriate committees.

- Belmont Circle.** Jennifer Willis moved for the purpose of committee, an issue with Belmont Circle regarding the road. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter. Jennifer Willis, Randy Crenshaw, Ben Trotter and Tom Ponder voted in the affirmative; Neil Smith and James London opposed. Motion was ruled for committee.

- f. **Litter control assessment.** James London moved for the purpose of committee, the issue of assessment of litter and where the county is regarding litter issues. Motion also included litter officials/beautification members being involved with the meeting. Motion was seconded by Tom Ponder. Tom Ponder, James London, Randy Crenshaw and Jennifer Willis voted in favor. Chairman Smith and Ben Trotter opposed. Motion was ruled for committee.

REQUEST FROM TRI-COUNTY FOR THE RELEASE OF EXCESS FUND BALANCE FOR TRI-COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$122,250.00:

>>Motion was made by Tom Ponder, seconded by James London and unanimously passed to allow Tri-County Technical College the funds as requested. Ben Trotter stated for the record this is not new funding, these are funds in their account.

LEASE WITH DUKE ENERGY:

>>Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed to approve the lease with Duke Energy and Mile Creek Park. The new lease expires in the year 2037.

Chairman Smith extended thanks to the staff at Duke Energy for their efforts for this extended lease.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Send Ordinance No. 333 Road Ordinance to the Public Service Committee
Staff stated they believed this to be under most of Mr. Trotters issues from Motion Period.

>>Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

>>Motion was made by Randy Crenshaw, seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed to convene in executive session for the stated purposes.

- Appointments to Public Service Commission.
- Appointments to Recreation Committee.
- Appointments to Tri-County Technical College.
- Contractual Issue.

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

- Appointments to Public Service Commission. - Neil Smith moved to reappoint Luther Johnson. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.
- Appointments to Recreation Committee. – Neil Smith moved to reappoint William Lewis. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.
- Appointments to Tri-County Technical College. – Neil Smith moved to approve the reappointment of Ben Childress. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

- Contractual Issue- no action

ADJOURN:

With there being no further business before the Pickens County Council, motion to adjourn was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed. Council stood adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Chairman Smith announced a 20 minute recess and council would go into a work session in the Main Conference Room. Chairman Smith stated the public was welcome to attend.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman