

December 3, 2007
Regular Council Meeting
7:00 PM

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, November, 28, 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 H. Willis

Staff: J. Chappell Hurst, County Administrator
Lynn Fisher, Assistant County Administrator
Olivia Vassey, Special Projects Coordinator
Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Smith called the meeting of December 3, 2007 to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Ben Trotter was called upon for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Smith addressed the Clerk for a list of citizens signed up for Public Forum.

1. **Ben Mann-** Mr. Mann wanted to introduce himself to the Council and state that he was running for the elected office of Clerk of Court.
2. **Tom Benko** – Mr. Benko stated he would encourage Council to continue to look into the parking situation at Hagood Mill.
3. **Ben Kissam** – Mr. Kissam spoke to Council regarding the issue of the Outer Banks at Keowee requesting the Water District to provide a water line for hydrant purposes. Mr. Kissam stated he had the same issue back in 1970 and the Water District informed him that they were in the water business, not the fire business. Mr. Kissam requested that if Council helps any neighborhood that he would request assistance in others. Mr. Kissam concluded by stating that perhaps with all the development at the lake, a study should perhaps be done for solving many similar issues.
4. **F.M. Caddell-** Mr. Caddell stated he was in favor of more parking at Six Mile. Mr. Caddell wanted to reiterate that he was supportive of the Six Mile Firemen, and his only issue with the Six Mile Fire District has been the budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Tom Ponder and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of November 19, 2007. James London did abstain due to his absence of 11/19/07.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Economic Development—Mr. Hurst requested an addition to the executive session regarding an Economic Development Project.
2. Marketing program for Tourism.--Mr. Hurst requested that Council place in Committee the plan for marketing tourism in Pickens County.
3. E-Waste-- Mr. Hurst stated the E-Waste program that was recently done with the Solid Waste department was a big success. Mr. Hurst reported over 35 tons of recycled computers and electronics.
4. Grant for Mile Creek--Mr. Hurst informed Council regarding the \$80,000 grant for Mile Creek Park. Mr. Hurst stated these funds will be utilized to have a covered shelter, which can be used for large gatherings and recreation. Mr. Hurst also noted other improvements being done at the park.
5. Airport--Mr. Hurst provided Council a packet from the Aeronautics Commission. Mr. Hurst stated the Chairman of the Aeronautics commission would be at the Forum in January. The Commission has requested that Council look over the information within the package and provide feedback at the forum.

Council Correspondence:

>>Dr. London asked that the issue of E-Waste recycling be looked at further as this was something that was more and more in demand. Mr. Hurst stated he would see about quarterly pick-ups.

>>Tom Ponder stated he agreed with Mr. Kissam, and stated the county should look at comprehensive water/fire issues.

>>Chairman Smith provided that in regard to the Outer Banks Sub-division issue that he had spoken with the delegation and Senator Martin had informed him that a final grant had not been awarded to the Sub-division. Also, Chairman Smith state he had spoken to the Water Districts, and they were clear that their responsibility had to be water, not fire.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

1. Addition to executive session.---Ben Trotter moved to add to the executive session the issue of Economic Development. Second was given by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 398 TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 255 OF 1998, RELATING TO THE JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK OF OCONEE AND PICKENS COUNTIES SO AS TO ENLARGE THE PARK:

Chairman Smith called the Public Hearing to order and opened the floor for comments. Hearing none, the floor was closed.

- Jennifer Willis moved that this constitute third and final reading of Ordinance No. 398. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

APPROVAL OF THE FY 2008/2009 BUDGET CALENDAR:

- Ben Trotter moved to approve the Budget Calendar, Randy Crenshaw gave the second.

...During discussion council thought it prudent to have a work session in order to set goals and priorities before going into the budget process. It was agreed that council

would contact the Clerk and give times for January 22, 2007. Chairman Smith stated this would be the second meeting in January and would be a good time to discuss priorities.

- Neil Smith amended the Budget Calendar to provide for Fire Districts to receive required information by January 15, 2007, and to remind staff that information such as additional homes within the districts would be needed for budgeting. Amendment was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve as amended was passed with unanimous vote.

APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM:

- Motion was made by Tom Ponder and seconded by Randy Crenshaw to approve the additional funds.

...During Council discussion Mr. Hurst provided that the program has been so successful that pick-ups have increased. Mr. Hurst requested that Council take \$10,000 from contingency and \$5,000, which is in building maintenance for the Humane Society and place in the Spay/Neuter program. Council stated they were pleased the program was going well, but would discuss in more detail during budget to make sure the initial goals were being met. Council also wanted to know more about grant options and local vet interest.

- Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

REQUEST PERMISSION FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO SUBMIT (2) GRANT APPLICATIONS UNDER THE LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT PROGRAM:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw.

...During Council discussion, Ben Trotter stated he had made a phone call to inquire more about the grant, but did not get a response. Mr. Trotter also stated he did not like to obtain information on the meeting day.

Mr. Ferguson expressed an apology to Mr. Trotter, and further explained this grant was for application only, and the Sheriff's office would have to come back to council for the 25% match (approximately \$100,000) if they were approved. Mr. Ferguson also informed Council the grants consisted of In-car computers and a multi-purpose surveillance van.

Chairman Smith stated that details could be discussed if the grant was approved and he had no issues with allowing the department to make application.

Mr. Ferguson stated some match funding was available if approved.

- Council voted unanimously to allow the Sheriff's Office to apply for the stated grants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION---BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

- Motion was made by Ben Trotter, seconded by Randy Crenshaw and unanimously passed to convene in executive session as stated.
 - a. GPATS and ACOG Transportation Study Committee
 - b. Beautification Committee
 - c. Economic Development Alliance
 - d. Southside Water District

- e. Economic Development Issue-as added

PUBLIC SESSION RECONVENED:

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

a. GPATS and ACOG Transportation Study Committee ---Jennifer Willis moved to appoint Chris Brink, Curtis Burgess, and Bo Beauchemin to the GPATS/ COG Study group. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

b. Beautification Committee—Tom Ponder moved to reappoint Mrs. Freddie Jewsbury to the Beautification Committee. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

c. Economic Development Alliance – Chairman Smith moved to reappoint Mr. Joe Black to the Economic Development Alliance. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Willis and unanimously passed.

d. Southside Water District –Randy Crenshaw moved to appoint Doug Hayes and Daniel Henderson to the Southside Water District. Motion was seconded by Ben Trotter and unanimously passed.

- e. Economic Development Issue—No action.

ADJOURN:

With there being no further business before the Council, Chairman Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jennifer Willis, seconded by James London and unanimously passed. Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Donna F. Owen, Clerk to Council

G. Neil Smith, Chairman